THE TIMES 30P

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Lessons in basic classroom skills

Teachers will get their own curriculum

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A NEW "national curriculum" for teachers is to be announced tomorrow to make sure that young people entering the profession have the basic skills to teach children to read, write and add up.

Teachers will also be given stronger powers to enforce discipline — even against parents' wishes — as part of the Government's attempt to raise standards in schools at a time when Britain's children are lagging behind pupils in other countries.

The drive to "teach teachers to teach" comes after years of complaints from students emerging from training colleges that they have not been taught the fundamentals of the job. Now Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, aims to make sure that they follow a core curriculum in college just as children have to in schools. Those who fail to meet the tougher new standards will not be able to progress in their career.

A senior government source said: "The time is ripe for us to make sure we show our teachers how to teach. After all, doctors have to learn how to do their job. So many of our teachers come out of college enthusiastic, their heads full of education psychology, but having received very little instruction on how to teach children to read, write and do sums."

Mrs Shephard is also considering measures to improve the performance of the existing 400,000 teachers, possibly including retraining in basic skills, while heads are to be given management and financial tuition to take account of the fact that running a school is now often the same as running a business.

The plans are part of Mrs Shephard's campaign to subject all teachers to much more rigorous appraisal and to make it easier for governors to identify poor teachers and, if necessary, dismiss them.

The Education Secretary will make her announcement against the damaging backdrop of a report ranking the educational achievements of children in Britain against those in America, France, Germany and Singapore. Although Britain does relatively well in higher education, the tables show a serious problem in basic numeracy and literacy among 16- and 18-year-olds.

The comparison — the first of its kind carried out by a British government — was Michael Heseltine's idea and will be published in a White Paper on competitiveness. It shows that skills are improving in all the countries covered, underlining Britain's difficulty in catching up. But ministers say there have been strong improvements since 1990 and that the Government has brought in a wide range of measures to improve standards after 120 years of neglect under governments of all colours.

A senior source said: "It shows clearly that while we are doing well enough in some areas, we are not doing very well in others. We can do better and will do better."

Mrs Shephard's measures are part of a government's move to counter claims that it is doing too little, too late. She wants to include the improvements in teacher training and new rules on discipline — which will allow teachers to override parents' objections to punishments such as detention — in a Bill to be outlined in the autumn in the last Queen's Speech before the General Election. It will also contain her proposals for giving schools greater freedom to select pupils by ability. Grant-maintained schools will able able to select up to half of their intake and comprehensives a fifth.

Mrs Shephard was challenged over those plans in a Commons debate on standards in education yesterday when her Labour counterpart, David Blunkett, referred to reports of a rift with the Prime Minister over selection and dismissed as "frankly laughable" the notion of creating a grammar school in every town.

"You should never ration excellence," he said. "If you ration excellence to only the few, you will eventually and inevitably exclude the talent of the many from that opportunity. Selection has failed. It has failed historically and it has failed in the present climate."

The Government was following all Labour's initiatives while failing to take responsibility for its own mistakes, he said. "Seventeen years of failed Tory policies of floundering, of disarray, of wasted years, have undermined the opportunity to genuinely lift standards, opportunity and excellence for all children in this country."

But Mrs Shephard claimed that the Government had carried through the most radical programme of change for schools in memory, and accused Labour of hypocrisy and humbug. "You oppose grant-maintained schools but Mr Blair is sending his son to one. You oppose grammar schools and now you find that Ms Harman has chosen to send her son to one."

Second degree, page 43

PETER BENTLEY

Samantha Brewster working a winch during bad weather on her solo voyage

Yachtswoman gives up record bid

By Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent

SAMANTHA BREWSTER, who set out in October to become the first woman to sail solo and non-stop around the world in a westerly direction, yesterday abandoned her attempt after a her 67ft yacht ran low on fuel.

To have qualified for the record, Brewster, 28, from Suffolk, who is at present off the West African coast, needed to sail as far north as Cape Finisterre before turning south to the Brazilian port of Santos, from where she had to re-start in January after putting in for repairs.

But with only enough fuel for her self-steering system to last four more weeks, she decided yesterday to head back to Southampton. "I have given it my best," she said.

She will still have completed a remarkable voyage and will be the first woman to complete a solo westerly circumnavigation.

Chay Blyth, whose company rented out the yacht for the voyage, said last week that he did not want Brewster to carry on to Brazil as he did not believe a record starting and finishing in Santos was worth the effort.

Agonising decision, page 52

78 Tory rebels back Cash in call for Euro referendum

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

THE Conservative war over Europe flared dangerously again last night when 78 Tory MPs defied John Major by backing a referendum and provoking an angry backlash from pro-Europeans.

A number of senior Euro-enthusiasts called on Mr Major to show leadership by standing up to the Eurosceptics and bringing the policy of non-cooperation with Brussels to an end.

Edwina Currie said last night that if leadership was not given "it will be taken by other people ... The tail is wagging the dog."

The row came after William Cash's Bill calling for a referendum on Britain's relations with Europe was carried by 95 votes to one in the Commons.

Seventy-four Conservative MPs voted for the Bill, and four others acted as tellers in the division. Fourteen labour MPs, two Liberal Democrats and five Ulster Unionists supported the Bill.

The Tory voters were defying party policy, which provides for a referendum if a single currency were to be introduced, but no other plebiscites.

In an ominous development Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, said Mr Major would soon have to show the "utmost courage" in bringing the obstructionist policy to an end.

He compared Mr Major to a trade union leader who had taken his members out on strike or made them work to rule. "The most testing moment for such a leader is when he decides to settle for a deal, and then has to persuade his members to return to normal working."

Mr Cash, the MP for Stafford, was also embroiled in controversy after confirming that his European Foundation had received money from Sir James Goldsmith, the leader of the Referendum Party.

Quentin Davies, another pro-European, said Mr Cash owed his colleagues an explanation "as to how he found it possible to reconcile being a loyal member of Parliament and to receiving political funding from the head of a rival political party."

Ministers were relieved that Mr Cash's support had not been greater than it was. They pointed out that despite all the "hype" he had not received many more votes than those garnered in April by Iain Duncan-Smith for his Bill to reform the European Court.

The Labour leadership seized upon Conservative divisions. "Events in the Commons today show the Tory party to be in utter disarray," said Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman.

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Chairman, made it plain last night that Government policy would not change. Mr Cash's ten-minute Bill cannot become law, as the Government is not obliged to give it debating time.

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Beef crisis nearly over, says Santer

The European Commission believes that it can reach an agreement within days to defuse the beef crisis and allow Britain to drop its campaign of obstruction before the EU summit in Florence next week, Jacques Santer, its President, said yesterday ....Page 2

Electricity bills set to fall

The average household electricity bill is set to fall by between £15 and £20 a year after privatisation this summer of British Energy, the state-owned nuclear generator. The cut will come from a reduction in the levy added to bills to subsidise the decommissioning costs of the nuclear industry ....Page 27

Ethelburga veto

City of London planners rejected a glass-fronted design proposed as the redevelopment for the medieval church of St Ethelburga, wrecked by the IRA's Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.................... Pages 5, 19

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Major attacks lottery payout to gays

By Jill Sherman and Joanna Bale

THE National Lottery Charities Board last night stood by its decision to distribute lottery money to gay and lesbian groups after the Prime Minister criticised the awards as "ill-founded and ill-judged".

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, has written to David Sieff, the board's chairman, to express the Government's concern over four of the 2,229 awards announced yesterday, and asking the board to justify the decision.

However, one of the recipients, a Scottish group helping prostitutes, already receives government help, being funded by Lothian Health Board.

John Major told MPs in the Commons that some awards "do not in my judgment reflect the way that Parliament and public expected the lottery money to be spent". A Downing Street spokesman said his comments had been aimed at four: West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign (£66,000); the Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual Centre (£50,000); the Gay London Policing Group (£26,000); and the Scottish Prostitutes Education Project (£82,000).

The National Lottery Charities Board immediately issued a statement standing by its decision. A spokeswoman pointed out that it had given awards to 2,229 charities and voluntary groups amounting to £159 million. The theme was to focus on youth issues and those on low incomes.

"Questions have been asked about some of these grants to some particularly vulnerable groups," said the statement. "We consider all applications we receive on their merit. All groups which have been offered grants today submitted excellent applications to the board which were assessed thoroughly against our criteria. They have succeeded on the basis of merit."

The spokeswoman pointed out the projects associated with gay and lesbian people and deportees amounted to only 1 per cent of the £159 million awarded.

Downing Street sources claimed Mrs Bottomley had alerted the Prime Minister when given the list yesterday. But they emphasised that existing legislation meant the Government has no powers to block or change the awards. It was advised but not consulted.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Docklands bomb suspect is charged

PATRICK McKINLEY, 32, a car mechanic from Mullaghbawn, near Forkhill in South Armagh, was charged yesterday with the IRA bombing at London's South Quay in February. He was remanded in custody by Belmarsh magistrates in south London.

The lorry bomb in Docklands exploded hours after the IRA ended its 17-month truce, killing two men. One suspect arrested in Ulster has been freed on bail and two other men are being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

England squad cheered by pot shots at watching media

By Oliver Holt

TERRY VENABLES and his embattled England football squad attempted to give the media a taste of their own medicine yesterday as the post mortem into the team's dismal draw with Switzerland on Saturday continued and a new scandal broke about three of the players drinking in a nightclub after the match.

Venables, the England coach, accused sections of the press of trying to turn the public against the team and said he and his players considered them "traitors". On the training pitch at the team's Bisham Abbey headquarters in Buckinghamshire, Teddy Sheringham, one of the trio spotted at the Faces nightclub in Ilford, Essex, drew raucous applause from the rest of the squad when an attempted shot on goal flew wide, straight into a photographer's camera. Others attempted the trick after that with varying degrees of success.

Two players, David Platt, the captain, and David Seaman, the goalkeeper, were allowed to speak to the media in the interview tent. Known as two of the most diplomatic members of the squad, they were courteous and polite, but Venables left little doubt that they were chosen because most of their teammates would have been more hostile.

"The criticism we have had is awful," Venables said. A few of the critics were "turning the public against the players and that can affect support in the stadiums. The advantage of having this tournament at home is disappearing because of this.

"Every time a big tournament comes around, the lengths people go to get worse and worse. I do not understand why people do what they do to Gazza [Paul Gascoigne]. What was so wrong with his performance on Saturday? What is the point of trying to turn the public against the team?" Venables also made a point of defending the Ilford Three: Sheringham, Jamie Redknapp and Sol Campbell. "The Italian players drink wine every day," he said. "These boys have sat in a corner and had a couple of beers. They have not upset anyone and it is okay by me."

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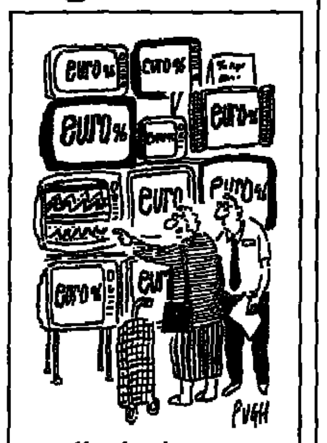
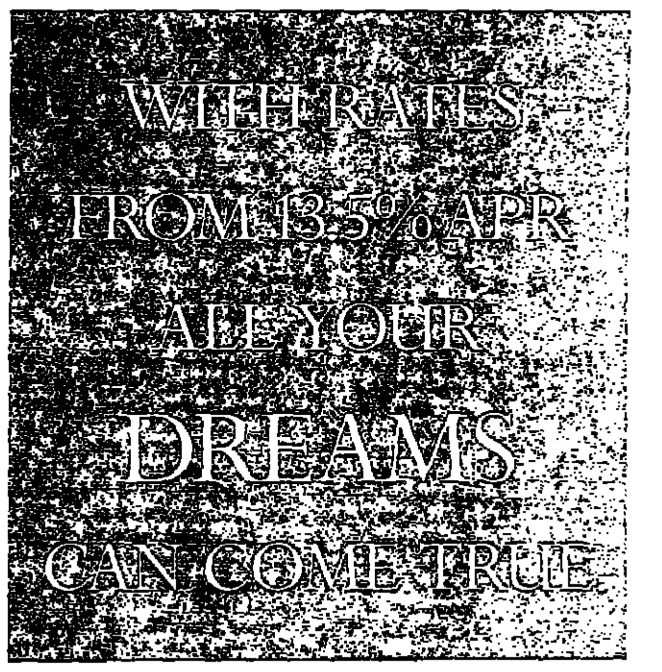


"I'll take that one"



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Ten-minute tiger haunted by a fearful symmetry

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

William, William, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

It was apposite that Bill Cash chose Blake as the poet laureate for his referendum crusade yesterday, though that was not the verse he quoted. For there is a fearful symmetry about the Conservative MP for Stafford. His speeches are delivered rather than spoken, all in a strangely monotonous evenness of tone: declaratory, with just a touch of the trumpet, but weirdly passionless.

Mr Cash speaks as though sleepwalking. His argument walks somehow with its arms out parallel, straight in front of it, absolutely determined upon its course, guided by a greater force, curiously impervious to its surroundings. Watching a Cash oration (and they are the same whether made to an audience of one, over the teatable, or to an audience of 400, as yesterday, in the Commons chamber) one remains unsettled by the thought that all at once somebody might wake him up, and he would drop his speech-notes and fall silent, amazed at where he was, who he was, whom he was talking to, and what he was telling them.

Cash had arrived early, before Prime Minister's Questions. He sat down, fumbled in his inside breast pocket for his notes, pulled them out to check they were all there, returned them to the pocket, pretended to listen for a while, pulled the notes out again and checked them one last time. From the Peers' Gallery Lord Tebbit and Lord Bruce of Donington (Labour's "Lord Angry," an indomitable critic of the European Union) watched lovingly. The chamber was packed on both sides. All the Euro-sceptics were there: Redwood, Lamont, Gorman. Below the gangway sat Sir Edward Heath, unmoved and unmovable, like some huge malign doll: a curse on the House of Cash.

Mr Cash's speech began, continued and ended with a sort of automaticity, as might the liturgy in a Mass, the words and sentiments well known, but repeated as an expression of faith. Only when he mouthed the phrase "German domination" did a sort of horror shine through with real and momentary passion. Dislike of something foreign breathed through the entire performance but never quite took visible shape, except here. It gave the game away. Odd, then, that the Blake which Mr Cash chose to quote was:

"A truth that's told with bad intent
Beats all the lies you can invent" ... for this was the thought which troubled those who found little in Cash's argument to dissent from, yet remained troubled by its expression.

The Bill was opposed by Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) in facetious and perfunctory fashion, his principal argument being that Sir James Goldsmith was a greengrocer and should therefore be thwarted. From Mr Banks's notional majority in Newham we may now subtract the greengrocers.

"Who will bring forward the Bill?" called Madam Speaker, after the vote. "Mr Peter Shore," declared Cash.

"Sir James Goldsmith" came a mocking call from dozens of doubters.

"Sir John Biffen."

"Sir James Goldsmith."

"John Redwood."

"Sir James Goldsmith."

Bill Cash had given us the end of a golden string. Who, or what, lay at the other end was less clear.

Mackay accepts concessions to save divorce Bill

BY FRANCES GIBB AND JILL SHERMAN

THE Lord Chancellor will accept two crucial changes to the Government's divorce law reforms in a last-ditch attempt to save the Bill.

With the final vote on the Family Law Bill on Monday, Lord Mackay of Clashfern indicated yesterday that he would table an amendment removing compulsory mediation for couples on legal aid.

Under the existing proposals, divorcing couples have to go through mediation, unless it is unsuitable, before being eligible for legal aid. Under the new plan they would have to meet a mediator, but only to be given information.

As it stands, the Bill favours mediation over legal advice. Now couple will be entitled to legal advice, whether they have been through mediation or not.

Lord Mackay also hinted at a second change. The Government is likely to back an amendment tabled by Sir James Lester, Tory MP for Broxtowe, to ensure the three-month waiting period after a divorce petition is lodged — a change forced on the Government in committee — would be included in the main timeframe of 18 months and not added to it.

Yesterday the future of the Bill hung in the balance, with 100 Tory rebels seeking to muster opposition when it comes up for third reading on Monday and Labour also threatening to scupper it.

Labour is to decide its tactics at a Shadow Cabinet meeting today. Paul Boateng, legal affairs spokesman, has indicated that Labour will abstain or vote against the Bill if the Government fails to accept a number of amendments it has tabled on domestic violence.

Edward Leigh, who is leading the Tory rebellion, is still holding out for two concessions. He argues the Bill should offer a "conscience clause", allowing couples to state why they wished to divorce, and a litigation-free period to stop speedy divorces.

Mr Leigh has invited the 109 Tories who rebelled against the Government over the "no-fault" clause at the second reading to a meeting in the Commons tomorrow.

A group of more than 20 individuals from interested groups urged party leaders to ensure the Bill was carried. In a letter headed by David French, who convenes the Family Law Bill Coalition, the writers — who include Anglican and Methodist churchmen, Relate, the Mothers' Union and the Jewish Marriage Council — say it would be a "lost opportunity" if the Bill was rejected.

But the Law Society, which has withdrawn its support from the Bill, says the Family Law Bill would prove costly to implement — anything from £20 million to £50 million — would be unworkable and a bonanza for lawyers.

It was the society, in alliance with right-wing Tory MPs, which secured the removal of the presumption in favour of mediation.

But yesterday, in a riposte to critics, Lord Mackay warned that if his proposals were lost, fault-based based divorce would remain the quick, easy way for thousands to end their marriages.

The present law, with "its premium on bringing in fault if you want a quick divorce", would continue, he said.

Major attacks cash for gays

Continued from page 1

Officials admitted that no attempt had been made to find out about the four groups before the Prime Minister made his comments in the Commons.

It emerged last night that the Gay London Policing group (Galop) was awarded £26,100 for a year to employ a full-time worker to support gay men and lesbians under 25 who have been victims of homophobic abuse and violent crimes.

The Leicester Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Centre was awarded £49,586 for the development of a counselling and support service for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people in the city. The grant, over three years, will pay for part-time and sessional youth workers and fund related running costs.

The West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign in Birmingham received £65,858 spread over three years to provide an information service for asylum-seekers.

The Scottish Prostitutes Education Project will use its £81,553 to fund a youth worker, office and running costs for counselling work with young male and female prostitutes.

Meanwhile, another group, the National Missing Persons Helpline, threatened to give back its £35,000, claiming the money was "disappointing and worthless".

SIMON WALKER

Bill Cash and his wife Biddy before walking to the Commons for the debate on a European referendum

Commission believes agreement on beef crisis can be reached quickly

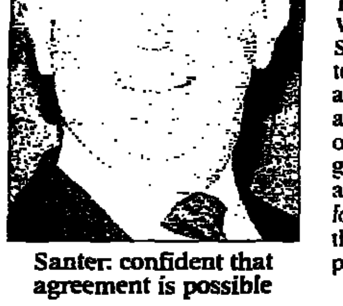
FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission believes that it can wrap up an agreement within days that will defuse the beef crisis and allow Britain to drop its campaign of obstruction, Jacques Santer, the EU President, said yesterday.

A hectic bout of Euro-diplomacy and meetings between British and Commission officials should clear the way to an accord at a foreign ministers' meeting in Rome on Monday, Mr Santer said. However, the Commission said it needed more proposals from London to complete the package ahead of the EU summit in Florence next week. Senior British officials said John Major would insist on a concrete plan as the price of calling off Britain's blocking tactics.

Britain yesterday applied its veto to four proposed EU measures, all relating to culture, bringing the number of initiatives blocked in the beef war to 78. On its side, the Commission formally ordered the lifting of the ban on the export of the by-products gelatine, tallow and bull semen. Only the semen is back on the world market because stringent controls must be applied in Britain before gelatine and tallow will be certified for export.

The Italian Government, which hosts the EU summit on June 21-22, is working with the Irish, who take on the EU presidency next month, to save the Florence gathering from being taken hostage by Britain's beef demands. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, who held meeting with Mr Santer yesterday, was more cautious. "I consider that the objective can be achieved if there is good will on all sides," he said.



Santer: confident that agreement is possible

"John Major is going to be handed a ladder which he can climb down," a French official said. "He should be grateful for that, but it will still be a very long haul." Mr Bruton said the EU could give its blessing to a "scaffolding" but "filling in the gaps" would come after the Florence summit. Britain's senior veterinary official voiced doubts on likely progress in Brussels. Keith Meldrum, the Chief Veterinary Officer, said the Standing Veterinary Committee, the body which must approve all steps in the beef affair, would vote on Friday on whether Britain's programme of eradication was acceptable as a starting point for easing the ban. "Whether the British plan will get support is a moot point," he said.

The veterinary committee, which represents member states, has been regarded by Britain as the villain in the beef affair since it rejected the original proposal to lift the beef ban.

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Simon Jenkins, page 18

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Dublin insists Mitchell must chair all-party talks

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

DUBLIN stepped up pressure on Unionists last night to accept George Mitchell as chairman of the all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Negotiations on the former American senator remained deadlocked.

During intensive talks throughout the day at Stormont, Irish ministers insisted that Mr Mitchell would have to be appointed and they rejected a proposal by Ulster Unionists to weaken the chairman's powers.

However, they and their British counterparts tried to respond to Unionist concerns by agreeing to set up a committee to examine the role of the chairman. Under the plan, Mr Mitchell would chair the main session of the talks while the committee reviewed last week's Anglo-Irish document which appointed him.

Talks continued late into the evening on the proposals by the governments and the Ulster Unionists. However, a senior Irish source rejected the Unionist plan to weaken the power of the chairman. "If he wants to scratch himself he would have to get the permission of the parties. It would be a recipe for a procedural nightmare."

The acrimonious atmosphere was underlined by the opening of the main talks lasting for only 15 minutes in the morning. The parties then broke off for a series of individual meetings between ministers, the politicians and Mr Mitchell.

The latter held separate meetings with the Rev Ian Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionists, and David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, to reassure them that he would be an impartial chairman. The two men said that the meetings had done nothing to change their view of his position.

By last night the atmosphere had worsened. Mr Paisley accused one of the Irish ministers at the talks of warning that there would be "bodies on the streets" if Unionists refused to accept Mr Mitchell as chairman.

Mr Paisley complained about the comments to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary. An Irish Government source last night rejected Mr Paisley's allegation. He said: "It is absolute nonsense. None of the ministers would make a suggestion like that."

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, demanded that Sinn Fein condemn the suspected IRA murder of a policeman in Limerick last week or face the consequences. Mr Bruton said he was "deeply disturbed and shocked" by Sinn Fein's attitude after Pat Doherty, its vice-president, appeared on television and did not condemn the shooting of Detective Jerry McCabe in Adare.

Veteran fixer cools his heels as parties question his impartiality

GEORGE MITCHELL, who had hoped by yesterday to be playing his part in resolving 800 years of conflict in Ireland as chairman of the all-party talks, was left kicking his heels at Stormont as Unionists tried to block his appointment.

The former American senator had not made it to the main conference hall by yesterday evening and was still trying to convince Unionists of his credentials as an impartial chairman. As a veteran political fixer in Washington, Mr Mitchell was said to be in sanguine mood as he invited the Rev Ian Paisley and David Trimble to separate meetings in his plush office at Stormont Castle.

One delegate at the talks who met Mr Mitchell yesterday said he was taking the objections to his appointment in his stride. The delegate said: "He has been an expert at dealing with conflicts in the world. He knew that it could be a bumpy ride."

Unionists object to Mr Mitchell because they believe that his close association with President Clinton makes him too sympathetic to nationalists. The Democratic Unionists and the United Kingdom Unionists appear determined to unseat Mr Mitchell in spite of the widespread praise he received for his report on disarmining terrorist weapons earlier this year.

Asda ready for new offensive in drug price war

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ASDA is preparing to launch its own range of cheap over-the-counter remedies on Monday in the next stage of the drug price war.

Yesterday the supermarket chain was forced to stop selling Anadin paracetamol at half the retail price when the manufacturer obtained a week-long injunction. But Asda responded by stripping its shelves of the product, leaving its own paracetamol tablets on sale at a fraction of the price.

The company's action illustrated the gap between the price fixed by drug manufacturers under the 26-year-old resale price maintenance (RPM) agreement and that charged by supermarkets.

Asda, which last year destroyed the penultimate bastion of price-fixing, the Net Book Agreement, is preparing for a repeat performance by attacking the price of medicines. Britain's 8,000 independent neighbourhood pharmacists, which have already seen supermarkets move into a large portion of their territory, fear that many will be unable to compete and will have to close.

Asda has been making highly secret preparations to launch a range of remedies on Monday. The company said last year that it hoped to increase its selection of low-price vitamins and minerals from 19 basic products to 50 but rivals have been wondering when this was due.

Observers suspected the assault on Anadin was a publicity coup to draw attention to the high cost of drugs. A source said that a launch "with a great fanfare" was being prepared for next Monday.

Asda cut the price of packs of 24 Anadin paracetamols from £1.72 to 86p this Monday. On the same day it reduced the price of its own brand from 49p to 24p.

In the High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Gage granted a temporary injunction to Whitehall Laboratories, the manufacturer of Anadin, which was acting to defend the price-fixing agreement. Asda, which has 207 stores, is now promoting its own brand at 1p per tablet compared with the 7p price of Anadin.

Gary Hickinbottom, solicitor for Whitehall Laboratories, said: "There is nothing to stop Asda selling its own-brand paracetamol at whatever price it likes. But if it wishes to sell Anadin, it must stick to the RPM price."

Nick Cooper, corporate counsel for Asda, said: "We are seeking to offer what we regard as much better value on this product than we feel the RPM offers. We would not dispute that there should be support for small chemists, but this is not the best way to do it."

Gwyn Burr, marketing director for Asda, said: "We estimate that for every pound spent by the customer on Anadin Paracetamol, 80 per cent is profit margin for manufacturer and retailer. So much for the argument that this is all about support for neighbourhood pharmacies."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unease at televised swearing increases

The Broadcasting Standards Council called for top-level talks with leading television companies to discuss growing public concern about rising levels of bad language on television.

Lady Howe of Aberavon, chairman of the council, said there had been a steady increase in audience anxiety about swearing and blasphemy over the past four years. The council's annual monitoring report showed that concern over swearing on television increased from 26 to 28 per cent. In contrast, concern about television violence fell from 66 to 57 per cent.

Millenium cash

The Corporation of London pledged more than £5 million yesterday to the Millenium Exhibition. The money is to help finance one of 12 pavillions planned for the £500 million exhibition in Greenwich. The deadline set by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, for declarations of private sector support is tomorrow.

Woman strangled

A woman was found murdered after her ten-year-old son returned from a weekend access visit with his father. Shirley Brown, 46, of Lowton, near Manchester, who was studying for an English literature degree, had been strangled with a pair of tights and was possibly sexually assaulted by her killer, police said.

Gritting radar

A weather radar that can tell the difference between rain and drizzle, sleet and wet snow, hail or freezing rain was unveiled by the Meteorological Office. With its help local authorities which buy the service will be able to pinpoint exactly when and where to send out road gritters in winter, reducing waste and saving money.

Gurkhas posted

Four hundred Gurkhas saved from redundancy last year to bolster infantry regiments, are to be attached to the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Scots Guards, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, said. They will serve as separate companies within the regiments.

Exam washout

Hundreds of unmarked English language GCSE exam papers have been found floating in a river in Coventry after they went missing from a Parcel Force depot in the city. The condition of the papers is being assessed but the affected pupils from a school at St Helens, Merseyside, have been told they will not have to resit the exam.

Teenage killer

A teenager who beat a 66-year-old man to death in his home at Northampton was sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure. Andrew Sheehan, 18, pleaded guilty at Oxford Crown Court to murdering Stephen Reilly last September. He was said to have believed, wrongly, that Mr Reilly had indecently assaulted a friend.

Sale success

The first day of a two-day sale of items from the Marquess of Bristol's ancestral home, Ickworth House in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, raised almost £800,000. Lord Bristol, 41, ordered the sale after deciding to move out of his apartments to save money. Only 12 of the 384 lots on offer were left unsold by late afternoon.

Vintage sounds

A CD consisting of the sounds of 14 different wines fermenting is being sold by Fortnum & Mason, the London grocer. *The Sound of Wine*, which plays for an hour, was recorded last Christmas Eve by the Austrian winemaker Willi Opitz with the help of Paul Passler, a broadcaster. Fortnum's is selling the CDs for £9.95.

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Inquest told that friends who shot themselves had no links with right-wing groups

Graduate in suicide pact knew she was pregnant

By Paul Wilkinson

Stephen Bateman and Jane Greenhow, who set up home with Fleming after meeting in Leicester

A YOUNG British graduate who killed herself in a suicide pact with her boyfriend at an American shooting range was pregnant, an inquest was told yesterday.

Ruth Fleming and Stephen Bateman, both 22, killed themselves at a shooting range in Mesa, Arizona, by placing handguns in their mouths and squeezing the triggers. Their friend Jane Greenhow, also 22, shot herself after hearing of their deaths.

Fleming was 12 weeks' pregnant and would have known she was expecting a child, Geoffrey Burt, the Durham coroner, said.

The inquest was told that Fleming, from Bowburn, Co Durham, and Greenhow, from Harrogate, North Yorkshire, had studied astro-physics at Leicester University. They graduated with honours in 1994. While students they had made friends with Bateman, a drop-out originally from Boston, Lincolnshire.

When the two women found work last summer as computer programmers with a firm in Farnham, Surrey, all three set up home in a house in Andover, Hampshire. Shortly before the new year they sold all their possessions and Fleming withdrew all but £50 from her bank account.

Her sister, Barbara Bailey, a bank manager from Harrow, northwest London, told the inquest that on January 5 Fleming and Bateman came to see her and asked her to sign a passport application for Bateman who said he had to go away for family reasons. There was no mention of a destination. Fleming did not say she was contemplating leaving the country; in fact, she said she would be going back to work the following week.

Fleming gave her sister a new address in the town, but when she failed to return to work after the holiday her employers contacted the Fleming family and it became clear the three had never moved to their new flat. Police inquiries traced them to America.

Mrs Bailey said that her sister had not been acting unusually or expressed any peculiar political or philosophical opinions during the run-up to her disappearance.

In a written statement Detective Don Schoch of the Arizona police said that Fleming and Bateman had shot themselves after firing almost 50 pistol rounds at targets. When they got to the last six bullets they turned their guns on themselves. They had only 84 cents in cash between them.

It appeared that at some point previously Greenhow had separated from them and travelled a thousand miles to California. Detective Schoch had traced her through her hire car and asked the rental clerk to get her to contact police when she returned the vehicle.

The next thing he heard was that she had killed herself the day after being told by hire company representatives of the two suicides.

The hearing was told that all three friends were found in black combat-style clothes when they died. Fleming's toenails were painted black and she had a tattoo — described as an unusual geometric shape — on her left upper arm.

Checks of Fleming's credit cards showed the group had flown to Detroit on January 6 via Washington and then on to Las Vegas. They spent seven weeks touring the western states before arriving in Mesa the day before the deaths. Checks with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Secret Service had failed to find any links with far right-wing groups active in the area, the detective said.

Mr Burt said there was no evidence that the three had been involved in right-wing politics despite the fact that all were found wearing black military-style clothing and the car used by Fleming and Bateman contained several books by Friedrich Nietzsche, the 19th-century German philosopher. They included Thus *Spake Zarathustra* in which he expounded his theory of the "Ubermenchen" or superior race, which was later espoused by Hitler.

Stuck in the book like a marker was a rambling suicide note written by Mr Bateman in which he talks of saying his farewells and burying his CD collection near a cactus to avoid "the enemy" getting it. He ends the letter: ".357 bullet has done my bidding. I will not go towards the light." It is signed "yours faithfully", but the last word is crossed out and "finally" substituted.

Recording a verdict of suicide, Mr Burt said: "There is nothing to explain their decision to take their lives. Whether it was the knowledge of Miss Fleming's pregnancy, the split from Miss Greenhow, or their rejection of contemporary moral values as expounded by Friedrich Nietzsche is not possible to say. It was possibly all three. These were premeditated and inexplicable deaths."

No inquest has been held on Greenhow as her body was cremated in America.

Ruth Fleming, who killed herself in Arizona alongside Bateman

'If there is any existence I fear it may be packed with proles'

STEPHEN BATEMAN'S suicide note, written in block capitals on notepaper from an Oregon hotel reads:

Had some rather fetching photographs taken of me in 'majestic poses' in front of the 'Hind'. I lost them. I never lost anything!

I think they were left at hotel in Weston Supermare. I purloined rose clouds of holocaust when I sold my record collection, but I kept my DLI CDs rather than have them fall into enemy hands.

I intend to bury them in Arizona near a cacti. I would do it in Nevada however the police might be looking for a white Ford and this is too much of a risk.

I think it was Lulworth Cove upon the cliffs I said my farewell to all that soul had craved in that land. If you shall "see me again" (your words Mr P) I will be there before you. If there is any sort of existence (this life can barely be called existing). I fear it maybe packed with proles 'untermenshen' so I will follow the advice of a Polish girl after that. .357 bullet has done my bidding I will not "go towards the light."

Yours faithfully,

Stephen B aka Eugene Beckmann.

Weavers gamble on factory for future

By Stephen Farrell

THE Harris Tweed weavers of the Outer Hebrides, fearful for their future in a declining indutry, are gambling on buying a mill that closed down last year when its owners went into liquidation with a deficit of £750,000.

The Harris Tweed Weavers' Association plans to raise £300,000 from members in a co-operative venture. Willie Macleod, association chairman, last night headed a meeting at which 100 weavers discussed proposals to raise the necessary finance by buying shares in the mill and offering them to outsiders.

Traditionally, the cloth is produced by islanders in their homes. But a massive decline in foreign markets over 30 years and a switch to larger looms by 60 of the 400 weavers left the remainder fearing for their future.

Faced with the prospect of personal contracts tying them even closer to the three remaining mills, the association voted unanimously last month to buy the disused mill belonging to the Stornoway company Lewis and Harris Textiles.

Mr Macleod, a weaver for 17 years, said: "Traditional weavers feel they are getting a raw deal with changes in the industry, and if they don't do something to take control of their own destiny they will continue to lose out."

Experts pointed out that the Harris Tweed industry, now worth £6 million a year to the Western Isles economy, has declined from selling 7.5 million metres in 1966 to 1.8 million in 1995.

"What they are planning is very risky. The mill went bust last year because the market was not there. There is not much point producing all this wonderful fabric if no one is going to buy it," one industry insider said.

Ian Mackenzie, chief executive of the Harris Tweed Authority, said: "Things are in a bit of a turmoil at the moment, but we still hope to have 400 weavers on the new [larger] loom by 2000."

Police pay saboteur five times for arrests

By Joanna Bale

Wild won damages after this arrest

A HUNT saboteur has won five out-of-court settlements from a police force in four years.

Simon Wild, 38, was awarded £500 by Sussex Police after he threatened to bring a case of wrongful arrest against the force. The payment followed an incident at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt near Petworth, West Sussex, last October where he was arrested for saying "Oink, oink" to a policeman.

Mr Wild, who has two children, had already received £1,800 in out-of-court awards from Sussex Police in similar cases, involving unlawful arrest and trespass against the person after the police searched his pockets. The force paid £1,000 of his legal costs when he issued writs in three of the cases.

Six years ago he won £75 plus £2,000 in costs from the Hampshire force after bringing a successful court case in which he accused officers of using excessive force during an arrest. He has also won two appeals against convictions connected with his activities with West Sussex Wildlife Protection.

Mr Wild, of Bognor, West Sussex, said: "I have cost the police nearly £5,000 plus their own costs in the last six years. The money means I can afford to keep going to demos and hunts and I have bought a video camera to record the police so that we have hard evidence against them." His wife Jane bought a car after suing Sussex Police for £600.

Mr Wild, who works as a conservationist, has become an expert in the law and always tells the arresting officer that he is making a mistake. He said: "The police cannot arrest you without good reason. When I try to put them right, they just arrest me because they think I am a cocky bastard. It is quite amusing really, but not for the taxpayer who is having to pay for all this."

He has two cases outstanding against Sussex Police and is seeking legal aid for one of them. Mr Wild, a member of Bognor and Chichester hunt saboteurs, has convictions for public order offences.

A spokeswoman for Sussex Police said Mr Wild had received two payments totalling £700 this year but records did not go back further. She said: "We agreed to an out-of-court settlement but without accepting liability."

McVicar 'broke man's nose in row over dog'

By Richard Duce

A WRITER broke his neighbour's nose and then threatened to kill him in a dispute over their dogs, a court was told yesterday.

John McVicar, 56, forced his way into the home in Battersea, southwest London, of Scott Caisley, an advertising executive, and repeatedly head-butted him after he answered the door in his dressing gown, Kingston Crown Court was told.

The prosecution alleges that Mr McVicar carried out the assault after complaining that his neighbour's dog had bit his mongrel.

Mr Caisley said that Mr McVicar knocked at his back door and then punched him so hard he fell four feet across the kitchen and onto the refrigerator. His nose was broken.

"I just saw a huge blinding flash, then it was black, then just pain. He leapt into the flat after me. He had his arms round my throat — he grabbed me and head-butted me over and over again.

"He said over and over again: 'If this happens again I'll kill you.' He was looking at me in the eye and then he was looking at some knives I had in the kitchen." Mr Caisley, 27, said he eventually succeeded in pushing Mr McVicar away and telephoned the police.

Mr McVicar, who is conducting his own defence, denies assault in November last year and says he acted in self-defence. He also alleged that Mr Caisley's labrador-cross dog bit him during the fight. Mr McVicar told the court he suffered a gouged forehead, a grazed cheek and an abrasion on his nose in the fight.

He accused Mr Caisley of lying about the fight and asked him: "A slim, bald-headed sort of codger launches an unprovoked attack and you don't fight back. Why? If I was convicted you would see a serialisation deal."

Mr Caisley said he was telling the truth. The trial continues.

McVicar: claimed he acted in self-defence

Zulu VC sold to private collector

By Kyle Smith

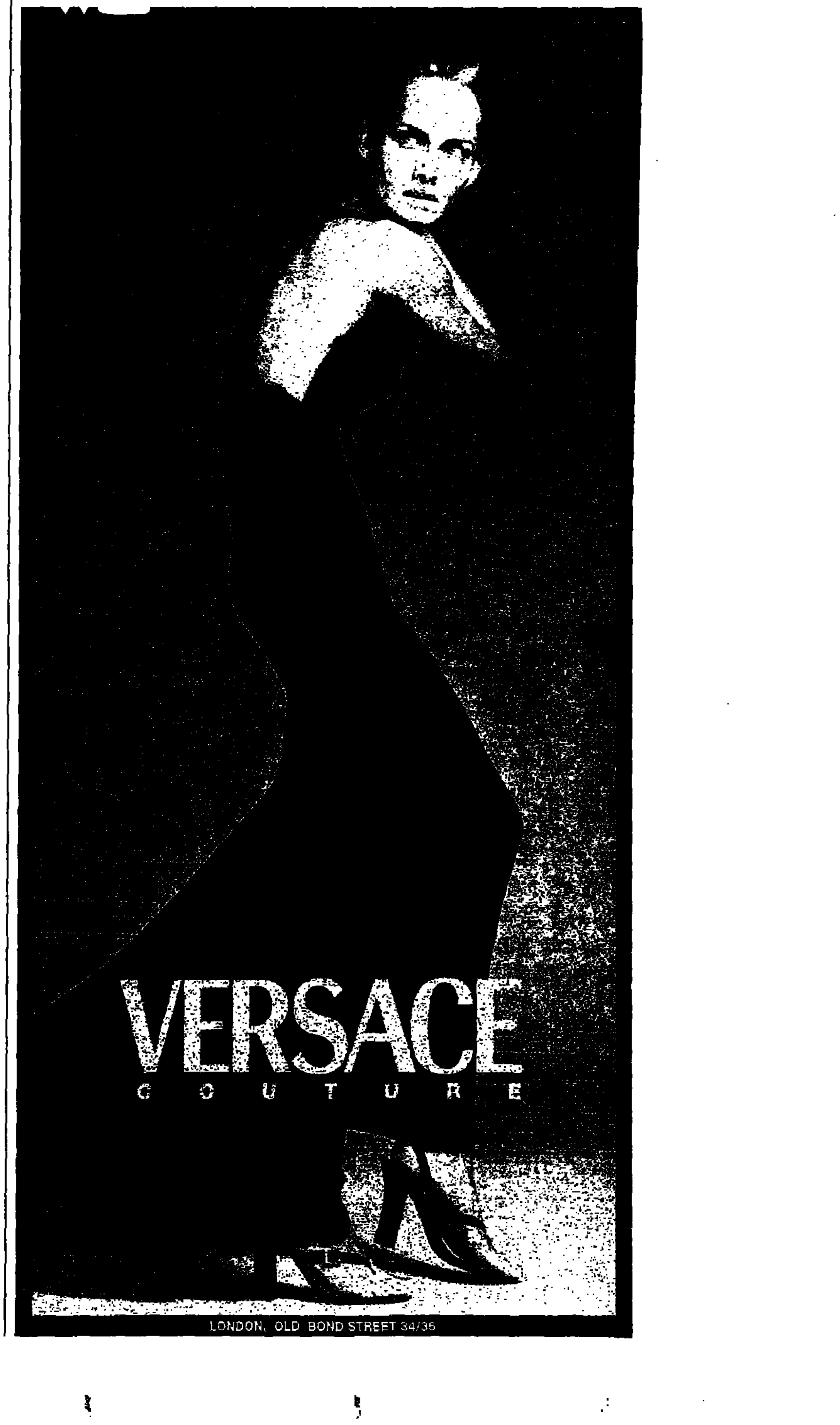
A VICTORIA CROSS won at the defence of Rorke's Drift, dramatised in the film *Zulu*, failed to reach its pre-sale estimate when it fetched £80,000 at auction yesterday.

The medal, one of 11 awarded in the battle, was bought by an anonymous private collector, disappointing the family of Private Robert Jones, who had hoped it would go to his regimental museum. Private Jones, 21, played a crucial part in the inspired stand of 153 British soldiers against 4,000 Zulu warriors in January 1879.

His family urged that the medal should be returned to the regimental museum of the South Wales Borderers in Brecon, where the other six VCs won in the battle by B Company, 2nd/24th Regiment, are displayed. None had ever seen the medal before as it has been in the hands of collectors for decades. It was last sold in 1950 for £98.

Julianne Bufton, 23, a great-great granddaughter, said: "It's a great loss. We'll probably never see it again."

Michael Naxton, a medal expert acting on behalf of the collector, said the buyer might consider allowing it to be exhibited in Wales. "It's a fascinating bit of British history," he said. Dix and Webb, the auctioneers, had hoped the medal would beat the record £132,000 paid for a VC in 1992.



The long-range forecast: cloudy in 50,000 years

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE solar system is heading for a cloud of interstellar dust and gas up to a million times denser than what we have been used to, according to astronomers.

For the past five million years — the time human life has taken to evolve on Earth — we have been moving through a volume of interstellar space that is practically empty. It cannot last, astronomers reported at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society this week. Some time in the next 50,000 years the solar system is likely to encounter much denser clouds, with effects that are difficult to predict.

Dr Jeffrey Linsky of the University of Colorado reported that telescope readings taken in 18 different directions had found that the Sun and its planets are on the very edge of an egg-shaped cloud of dust and gas. Another cloud, he said, may be as near as 20,000 years away, although the distance is still uncertain.

"There will be an encounter," he said. "We don't know when or exactly how the Earth will be affected."

When it happened it would change the flow of the solar wind — the particles that stream out from the Sun's corona — and could expose us to greater radiation. The Sun could also appear dimmer behind much thicker clouds of material.

Both these effects could theoretically affect the weather on Earth, Dr Linsky said. Just how remained uncertain, "but I am sure there will be an effect".

Dr Priscilla Frisch, a University of Chicago astrophysicist, explained that the solar system lay on an arm of the Milky Way galaxy and was rotating around it at about 60 light years every million years.

Within this part of the galaxy were stellar formations in which stars were living and dying, creating vast clouds of gas and dust. Some of these clouds were expanding outward at high speeds. For millions of years we had moved between the clouds, but that could change.

Dr Frisch said that passage into a cloud of greater density would first change the heliosphere, the area surrounding the solar system that is under the influence of the solar wind. "There could be dramatic effects on the inner solar system," she said. The changed heliosphere could cause an increase in cosmic rays striking the Earth, reshape the Earth's magnetosphere — which is the magnetic bubble that surrounds the planet — and possibly change the chemistry of the atmosphere.

How this would affect life on Earth is not known. Dr Frisch noted, however, that some researchers had suggested that earlier ice ages might have been caused by the solar system passing through interstellar clouds.

She said that interstellar clouds could have a bearing on where life could evolve in the universe. Stars that were passing in and out of dense clouds would have a highly changeable environment, a condition that might prevent the formation of fragile life.

"Without stability in the local stellar environment, I doubt there could be stable planetary climates hospitable to life," she said.

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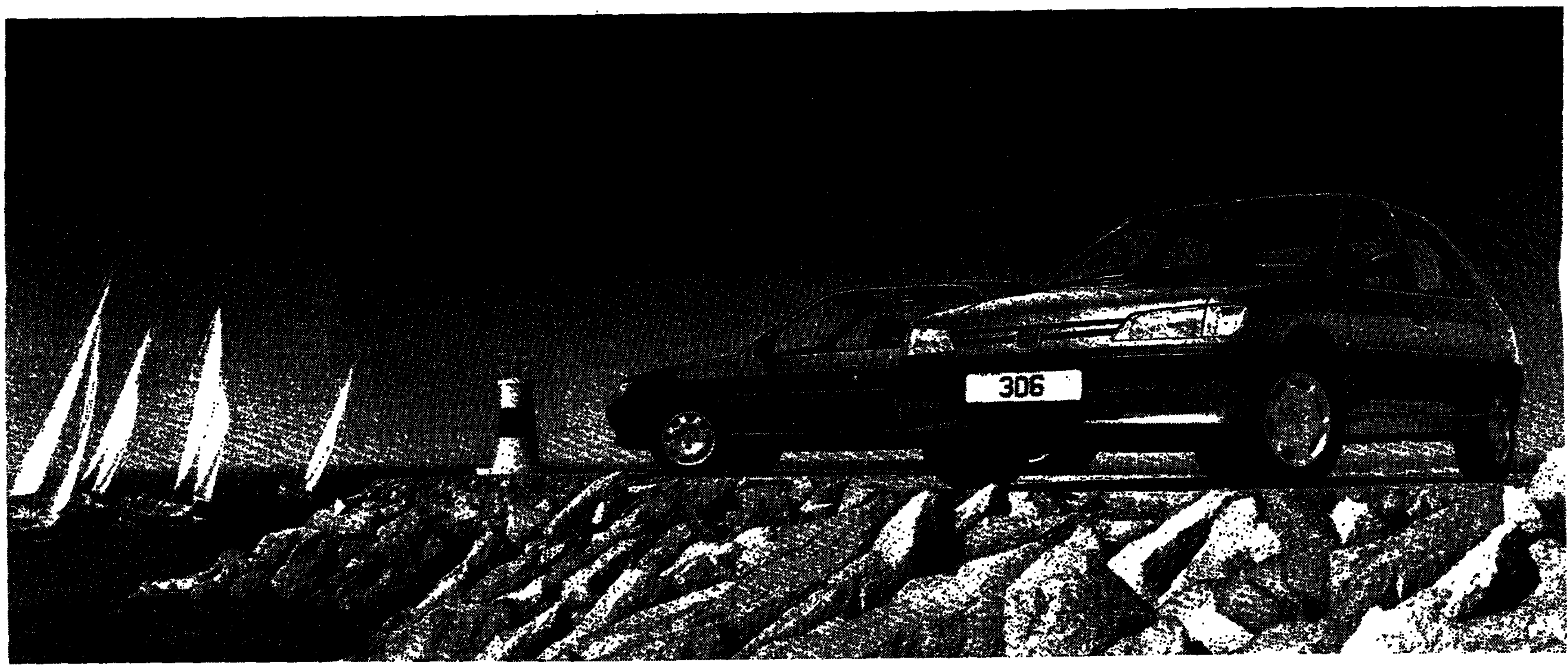

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Diocese split as traditionalists say restoration would be symbolic victory against IRA

City rejects glass plan for bomb-hit medieval church

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

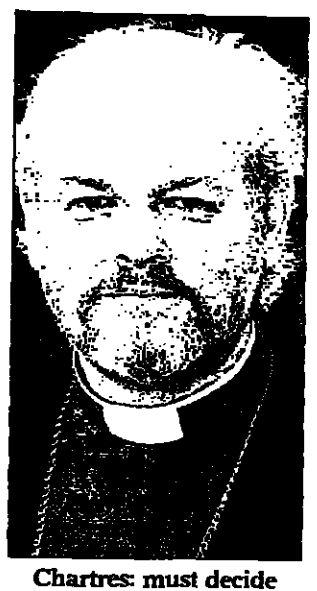
CITY of London planners yesterday threw out the modern glass-fronted design proposed for the medieval church of St Ethelburga, badly damaged by the IRA's Bishopsgate bomb in 1993.

The decision was immediately welcomed by conservationists and church traditionalists who are fighting to resurrect St Ethelburga as it was before the bomb, when it was regarded in the City as a gem. St Ethelburga survived the Blitz and was also one of eight churches in the City which predated the Great Fire of London. Many churchmen believe it must be restored for historical continuity and to represent a symbolic victory against terrorism.

However, other senior figures in the London diocese believe the church, which had been declared redundant, should not be rebuilt because the City has too many churches and does not need another.

The modern design, by architects Blee Ettwein Bridges, defeated eight other designs to win a competition intended to find the best way to redevelop the site. It has the backing of the Bishop's Council of the London diocese of the Church of England. But City planners voted 18-1 against the design on conservation grounds, deeming it inappropriate for what was the City's smallest church, a Grade I listed building.

The £3 million scheme would have involved encasing the ruins of St Ethelburga in a modern-style glass and copper-covered steel structure, including a garden, gallery and office building. Objectors included the Ancient Monument Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the London Society, the Retail Traders Association, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelburga.



Chartres: must decide which plan to support

Benjamin Hall, of Farringdon Within, said: "The essential point is that it [St Ethelburga] is still a listed building. There is a complete failure in this scheme to respect the integrity of the two-thirds of the building which remain."

Archie Galloway, deputy chairman of the planning committee, said: "I don't like the glass front. It is an inappropriate postage stamp to put in that particular place. Something needs to happen here, but regrettably I do not think this is the right answer."

Anthony Graves, of Bishopsgate, said: "This was a jewel." Even if the church were to be rebuilt, it would not be the same as it was, he said, calling for the whole area damaged by the bomb to be put right. Barbara Newman, chairman of the committee, said she felt "uneasy" about the proposals.

In their meeting at the Guildhall, the planners also censured English Heritage, who are backing the modern structure, for failing to support adequately the Corporation's attempts at conservation. The meeting heard that the London diocesan secretary, Chris Smith, had accused "the City's planning officers of writing a report containing "many errors of omission, fact and judgment", and of "bias, inaccuracy and incompleteness". He said the objections by officers on historical grounds were "as illogical and emotive" as objections by amenity societies such as the Ancient Monument Society.

In his letter, sent to the chairman but copied to every other member of the committee, Mr Smith said: "The Church has a different agenda from the temporal world. The destruction caused by the IRA was an extreme example of sin, which all of us commit daily."

Strongly defending the modern scheme, he said: "The detractors of this design imply that we are destroying the heritage of the City. They forget that the IRA did that."

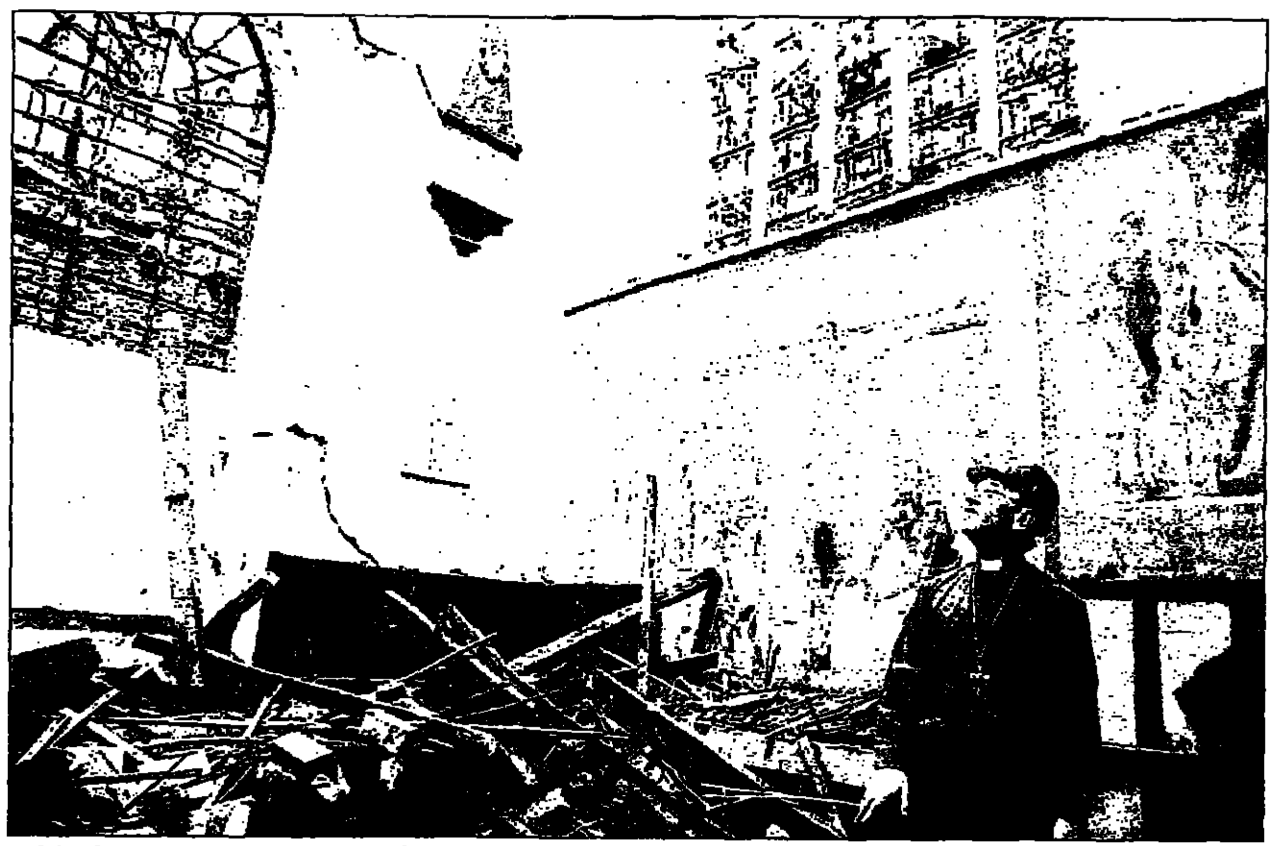
Planning officer Peter Rees said he had received 32 letters objecting to the modern scheme, compared to 27 in support.

Conservationists headed by the Friends of St Ethelburga will now press the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, to give his backing to their alternative plan. They want to rebuild all the main features of the original church, including the popular walled garden, to provide "a valuable ecclesiastical and meeting space" in the City.

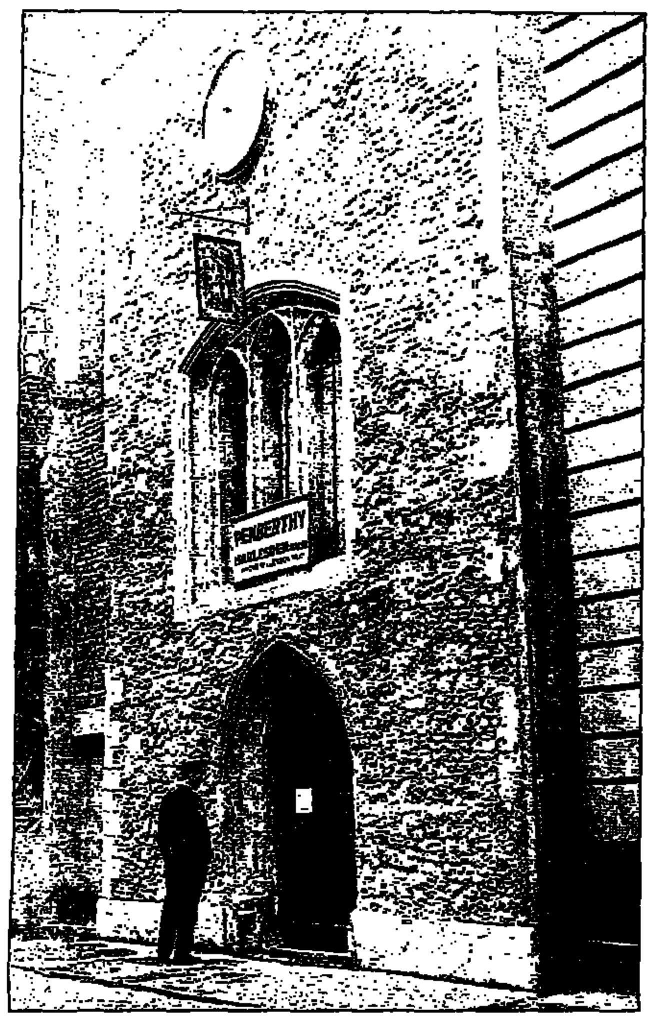
The plan, by architects Rothermel Thomas, involves reusing as much of the ancient timber and masonry as possible and has already won approval from the Corporation of London planning committee. However, it is strongly opposed by senior officials in the London diocese.

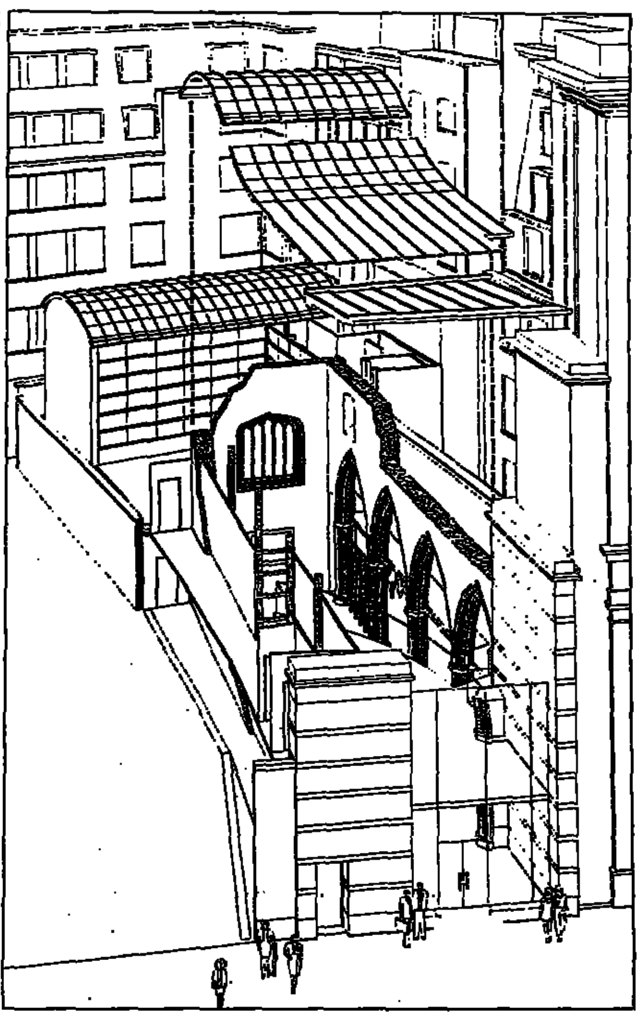
Bishop Chartres will decide whether to endorse the rebuilding scheme or whether to appeal against the decision of the planning committee when he meets in council with his senior diocesan officials next week.

Leading article, page 19



The damage caused by the IRA Bishopsgate bomb, above. Conservationists want St Ethelburga's restored as it was, below left, after City planners threw out the scheme put by the Bishop of London's council, below right





Cyanide thieves 'thought it was gold"

By Michael Horsnell

DETECTIVES investigating the theft of 25 kilograms of cyanide from Heathrow believe the thieves were deceived by packaging describing it as "gold potassium cyanide".

The substance, which can quickly kill if inhaled or swallowed, arrived in three barrels marked "poison" from Paris on scheduled flight BA305 on June 4 and was collected two days later by a security firm from the British Airways cargo terminal.

About 350 containers of the cyanide were missing when the much bigger consignment from which it was taken was delivered to the importers in Gloucestershire. Police were called in by Englehard Clal in Cinderford, a company dealing with precious metals. The alert was raised once checks were made by the company to confirm that the full consignment had been shipped.

Detectives said that there appeared to be no terrorist involvement in the theft. Detective Inspector Alan Garrod, who is leading the inquiry, said: "We believe they may have concentrated on the word 'gold' and ignored the 'potassium cyanide'. What they possess is a lethal chemical compound." He appealed for the thieves to tell police where the cyanide could be found.

He was confident the chemicals were been stolen from Heathrow but said that the police had also alerted Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris as a precaution.

The cyanide, which is used in gold plating, is white and sugar-like in appearance and was in small white circular containers with white labels similar to those used for storing aspirin, a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said. "Do not under any circumstances open the containers. The cyanide is lethal if inhaled or swallowed. If it comes into contact with your skin, wash with soap and warm water immediately. If in doubt, contact your doctor."

The labels on the containers describe the contents in some detail. A BA spokesman said the cargo had been carried under stict regulations and was signed for by the security company collecting it.

Luck runs out for Irish lottery vendors

By Audrey Magee

THE Irish Government will take shopkeepers to court to stop them selling British National Lottery tickets. Government sources said court cases would be filed against offenders following advice from the Attorney-General that the sale or distribution of the tickets was illegal under the 1956 Gaming and Lotteries Act.

It is estimated that people in the Republic are spending about £20 million a year on the British lottery. In the past, much of this money had been spent on the Irish National Lottery and other charity lotteries.

The odds against winning the British lottery are much greater but the prize money is more than ten times that offered in Ireland. The Irish National Lottery Fund rarely exceeds £3 million, compared with National lottery jackpots of up to £40 million.

About 1,500 outlets sell British lottery slips. Couriers make weekly trips across the border to Northern Ireland where the slips are registered. Customers in the Republic pay £1.25 to play the British lottery: £1 for the ticket, 15p for the shopkeeper and 10p for the courier.

Greenwich may join Britain's heritage sites

By John Young

THE historic centre of Greenwich, which includes the Royal Naval College, the National Maritime Museum, the Queen's House, the Royal Observatory and the Cutty Sark, will be nominated next month as England's eleventh World Heritage Site.

Its status is expected to be confirmed in January 1998, less than two years before the completion of the planned regeneration of the Greenwich riverside to celebrate the millennium.

Although the nomination to the World Heritage Fund will be submitted formally by the National Heritage Department, the details have been prepared by English Heritage in co-operation with the International Committee on Monuments and Sites.

Yesterday Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, called for a new crusade to gain greater support and recognition for the ten existing sites in England, some of which, he said, were in poor condition, short of funds and under threat from development and road plans.

Sir Jocelyn, who has campaigned against the widening of the A303 past Stonehenge, returned to the fray earlier this week when he described the surroundings of the Tower of London, another World Heritage Site, as a disgrace. Yesterday he pointed out that the ten sites between them attracted 13 million visitors a year, more than half of them from overseas.

The need to protect the world's great places, both natural and man-made, was exemplified in the 1960s with the threat to the temples of Abu Simbel by the construction of the Aswan dam. Since the signing of the Unesco World Heritage convention in 1972, a total of 469 sites have been designated.

Britain, although no longer a member of Unesco, ratified the convention in 1984. But designation carries no extra protection, which still depends on local planning decisions and the listing system.

Sir Jocelyn's speech during a visit to Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire, the first World Heritage site to be designated in England, was interrupted by Terry Rowden, a retired telecommunications engineer, who said he was tired of platitudes; places like Ironbridge were being turned into one big museum and the interests of local residents were being overridden.

The ten World Heritage Sites in England are: Stonehenge and Avebury; Hadrian's Wall; Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church; Westminster Palace, Westminster Abbey and St Margaret's Church; Ironbridge Gorge; Durham Cathedral and Castle; the Tower of London; Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Park; Blenheim Palace; the city of Bath.

The four other World Heritage Sites in the United Kingdom are: Edinburgh; St Kilda in the Western Isles; the Giants' Causeway in Ulster; and the Edward I castles in North Wales.

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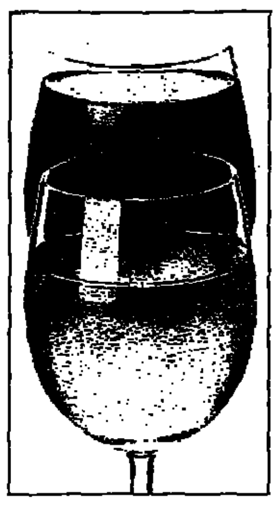

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Why millionaire is returning our lost treasures

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

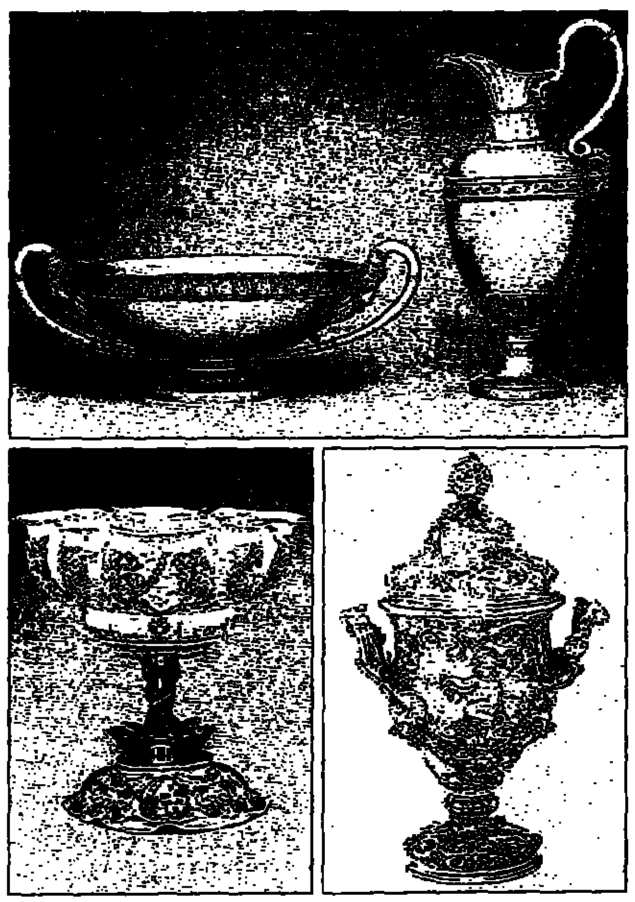
THE American property millionaire who is giving his £75 million collection of gold and silver objects to the nation said yesterday: "I felt it should come back to its roots and that the English people would really appreciate it."

Arthur Gilbert, who was born 82 years ago in London and has lived in America for the past 47 years, said that many of the treasures in his collection had been sold by the owners of some of Britain's grandest stately houses, including Althorp and Powderham Castle, but they now belonged in Britain.

Mr Gilbert, who made his fortune from industrial development and high-rise office blocks in California, had managed to acquire the objects because British public collections were unable to raise the money and prevent their export.

"At first I was going to give it to the people of California," he recalled. "But I believe that the people here are capable of really showing their appreciation and warmth for this collection. When you see it, you are really going to see something you have not seen before."

American museums had tried to persuade him to leave them the collection, which had been on display for many years at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The pieces include gold snuffboxes made for Frederick the Great of Prussia, one of which cost Mr Gilbert about £1.2 million in 1993, and a silver bowl from Althorp, family home of the Princess of Wales. He said that ultimately he had been persuaded by his old friend, Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, to choose Britain.



Top: silver ewer and basin by H. Auguste, c 1789
Above: two gold cups, made in 1665 and 1742

Mr Gilbert was speaking at a news conference at Somerset House, where the collection will be housed in vaults to be refurbished with a £15.55 million grant from the lottery fund.

Lord Rothschild said that the Van Goghs and Gauguins left by Samuel Courtauld and displayed at Somerset House made up one of the greatest collections of paintings given to Britain. Arthur Gilbert, he added, had donated the greatest collection of decorative arts ever given to this country.

Mr Gilbert, whose father built up a furrier company, was born in Golders Green, north London. His parents arrived in Britain, from Poland and Russia, in 1893. Before moving to Los Angeles in 1949 Mr Gilbert built up a business making and exporting dinner and evening wear designed by his wife Rosalinde. She died last August. They had been married for 61 years.

"I always love England," Mr Gilbert said. "I only left for selfish reasons because I wanted to live in the sun."

With the success of his Beverly Hills business, Gilbert Financial Corporation, the couple turned their attention to objets d'art, building up one of the most celebrated private collections of gold and silverware in the world.

The gift to the nation includes Roman ornaments from the 18th and 19th centuries covered in tiny pieces of mosaic which Mr Gilbert calls "micro-mosaics". He discovered they were a largely overlooked area and set about becoming one of the world's leading authorities on them. His collection is rivalled only by that of the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

It is hoped that the new Somerset House galleries for the collection will be ready for the millennium. The building has long housed the Inland Revenue and the Royal Court of Justice, along with other government departments. Lord Rothschild said that cars would be removed from the great quadrangle, opening up the space to the public again.

Part of the Gilbert collection will be on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in November to coincide with the opening of the museum's silver galleries.

Leading article, page 17

PETER TRIEVNOR

Mr Gilbert speaking yesterday at Somerset House, the future home of his collection

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Indians and Pakistanis the 'new Jews' of Britain

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

INDIANS and Pakistanis are becoming the "new Jews" of Britain, enjoying rising prosperity through hard work while retaining a strong belief in the family, according to a study of census returns.

It says the two communities will emulate the upward mobility of the Jewish community, with growing numbers starting their own businesses, moving into their own homes and joining the ranks of professionally qualified white collar workers.

Meanwhile, the Bangladeshi and black Caribbean communities face an "Irish" future as working-class wage-earners living in council or housing association property.

The "white collar, blue collar" divide emerging within the ethnic minority community is highlighted by Professor Ceri Peach of Oxford University in a detailed analysis of the 1991 census, in which a question on race was included for the first time.

He says: "One of the most telling summaries of the differences between the Caribbean and Asian settlements in Britain is that the Caribbeans faced what I term an 'Irish future' while the Asians faced a 'Jewish future'.

"The implication of the statement is that the black Caribbean population is working class, waged labour, state comprehensive school-educated and council housed, while the Asian population will become self-employed owner occupiers and white collar workers with professional qualifications."

The professor of social geography admits that in using a Jewish-Irish comparison he is stereotyping both communities, but says Irish immigrants have traditionally been seen as a blue-collar, working-class group.

He adds: "The new Jewish future seems to be coming about for the Indian population and to an extent the Pakistani population, athough not for the Bangladeshis."

The Indian population was already displaying some of the strengths of the Jewish community. "It is very family orientated, it has integrated into life in Britain but has not assimilated. It looks to the achievement of the community as a whole. People tend to marry within the Indian community rather than outside it."

The census found that the Indian and Pakistani communities have housing owner-occupation rates of about 80 per cent, compared with white and Chinese rates of about 60 per cent and below 50 per cent for black groups. Professor Peach concedes that much of the Indian and Pakistani owner-occupied property is in 19th century, inner city terraces, compared with a black-African population that lives in more modern local authority housing. While members of the Asian ethnic minority marry predominantly within their own communities, the study found high levels of mixed black Caribbean-white relationships. There was a white partner in 10.1 per cent of households headed by a black Caribbean male; only 4.8 per cent of households featured a white partner where the roles were reversed. "A significant proportion of the ethnic minority population is derived from mixed unions and new ethnic identities are being forged."

Professor Peach says the census indicates that the black Caribbean population in Britain is not as segregated as in America and that it has not become ghettoised, particularly in London where members of the community were moving from the inner city to the surburbs.

The census also discloses the emergence of a black British identity among people who are from an ethnic minority community but are British-born. The figures show that since 1984, a majority of the Caribbean ethnic population has been born in Britain.

The report, *Ethnicity in the 1991 Census*, published yesterday by the Office for National Statistics, estimates the Irish-born population in Britain at between 837,464 and 1,089,428.

RACIAL MIX

Ethnic Group	Great Britain	%
White	51,873,794	94.51
Black Caribbean	499,964	0.91
Black African	212,362	0.39
Black other	178,401	0.33
Indian	840,255	1.53
Pakistani	476,555	0.87
Bangladeshi	162,835	0.30
Chinese	156,938	0.29
Other — Asian	197,534	0.36
Other	290,206	0.53
Total minorities	3,015,050	5.49

Figures are for 1991

MPs protest at conditions for British peacekeepers in Bosnia

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

MANY British soldiers serving in Bosnia are enduring worse conditions than some of their Nato counterparts.

They have inadequate winter clothing, live in tents and have no easy means of phoning home, MPs reported yesterday. The Americans and Dutch enjoyed much better conditions, the all-party Commons Defence Committee said.

Although one MP said he did not expect British soldiers to be living in five-star hotels, after nearly four years of British peacekeeping deployments in Bosnia it was time they had better facilities, the MPs said. Improved conditions were even more important if, as the MPs urged, British troops remained in Bosnia beyond the 12-month timetable laid down by the Dayton peace accord.

At present, the 10,500 British troops, part of the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor), are due to be withdrawn or to start withdrawing from December 20. Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, said if Ifor left after 12 months, it would be "disastrous" because the former warring parties would return to fighting. The MPs, who made their fourth trip to Bosnia in April, were shocked by the conditions some of the troops had to tolerate, although they admitted that morale was still high. They found one 230-man unit camping in a disused factory. In January they had to survive Arctic conditions of minus 25C.

"We were told that lavatory facilities were so inadequate that troops wait until they leave camp on patrol and then make use of appropriate cover in a mine-infested countryside."

At the time of the MPs' visit, some 2,000 soldiers did not have access to phones, other than via a 30-minute bus ride once a week to a town with a single international phone.

The MPs discovered that while the Americans shipped air-conditioned mobile operating theatres around to treat injured soldiers, the British wounded had to be operated on in tents with no air-filtering system.

There was also a shortage of surgeons. The report said the number of deployable Army surgeons had dropped from 33 to 22 in the past two years. "The Army needs nine medical officers and four surgeons in Bosnia and is having to rely on doctors from the other services and other countries," the MPs said.

American and Dutch soldiers had also been issued with bottled water because of the health risk posed by local water supplies. Although the Royal Engineers had produced clean drinking water, the "unusual taste has deterred many from drinking it". Two days after the committee's visit, the Ministry of Defence agreed to provide bottled water.

"The MoD needs to show a faster response to meeting unforeseen needs for supporting soldiers in the field," the report said.

George: said pull-out would be disastrous

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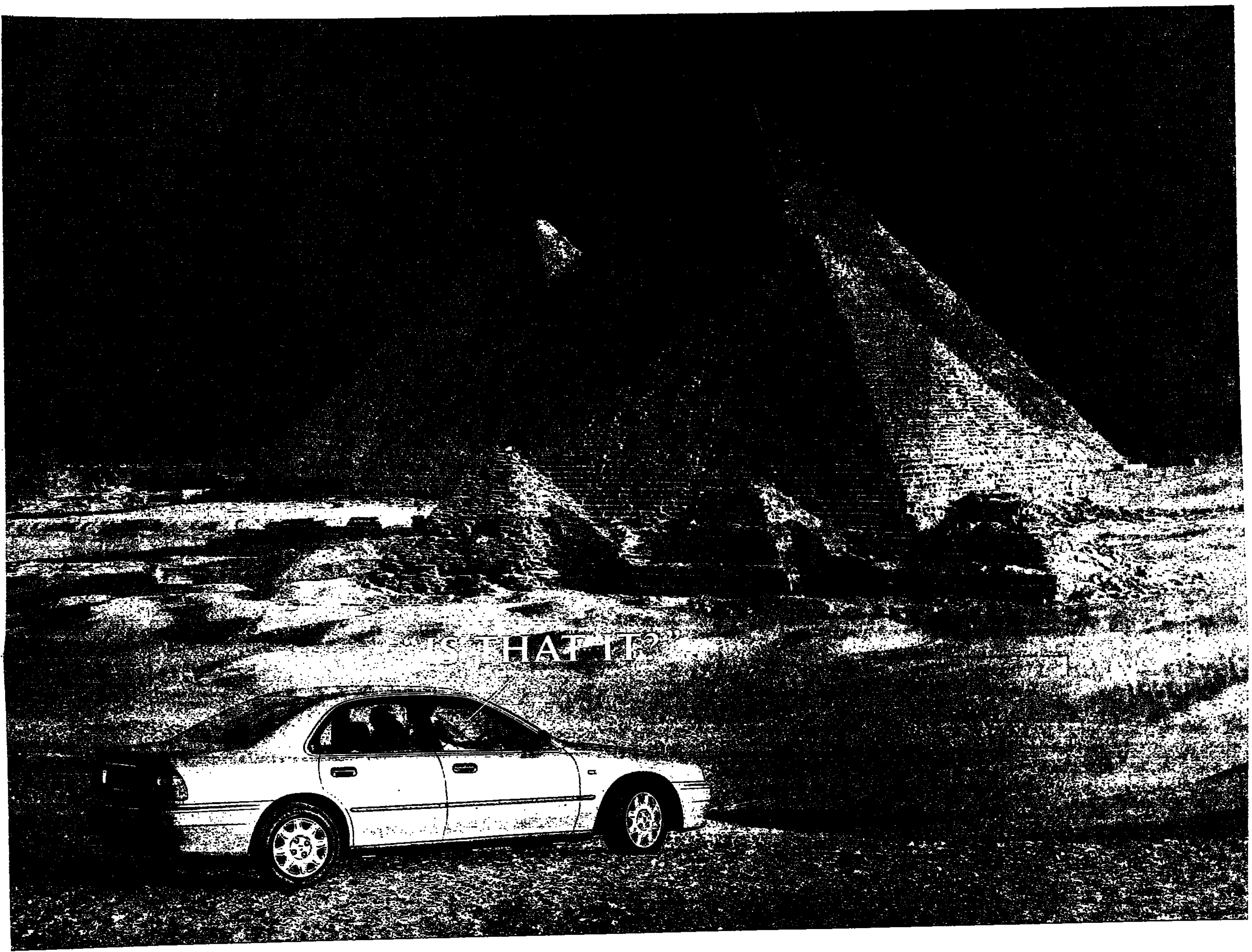

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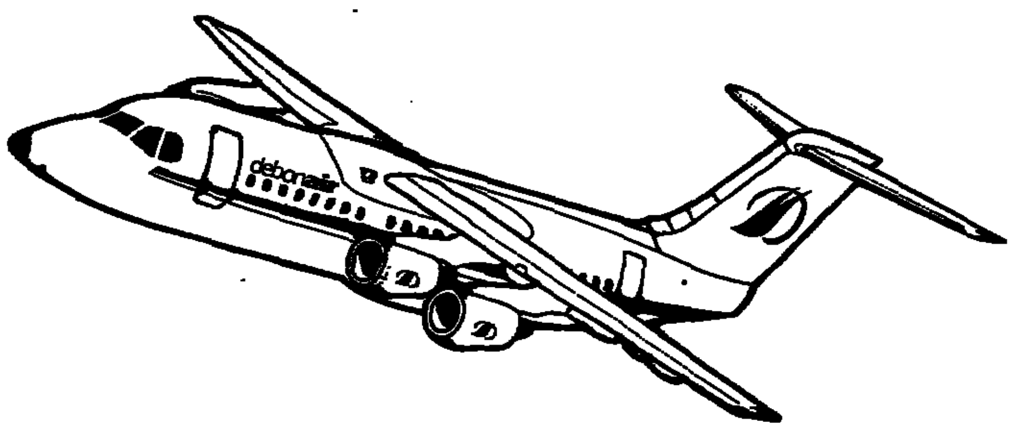

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Cambridge resists students' call for longer exams term

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

STUDENTS at Cambridge University are battling to change the centuries-old tradition of a seven-week summer term, the shortest in the world. The undergraduates want an extra week to revise for their final examinations, bringing them into line with Oxford.

College bursars are resisting any change. They say an extra week's study will cost thousands of pounds in income from summer conferences at the colleges.

A vote on the issue by the university membership is likely next term, but students, who accuse the bursars of putting money before education, will be excluded. The bursars will be backed by academics who fear erosion of their summer research time.

The final four weeks of the Cambridge summer term, known as the Easter Term, are taken up with examinations. Many students are tempted to skip lectures in the first three weeks to ensure they have enough time for revision.

Nick Forbes, president of the university's Student Union, said: "So much is crammed into so little time that we want a week in the middle of term to catch up on reading. We are only talking about an extra week, considering we have only 23 weeks in the year when almost every other university has 30."

Ceri Smith, the students' academic affairs officer, added: "They are being incredibly selfish. Basically the university has to decide whether it is here to have conferences or to teach students. There is no more than 20 weeks of teaching time in Cambridge University. It is absolutely scandalous there is so little time."

The university's council and the general board are backing the introduction of an extra week when it comes to the vote. A joint report concluded: "The need for formal teaching to be compressed into a relatively short part of the year adds to the pressure on students. It is difficult to defend such arrangements on educational grounds."

The Bursars' Committee believes the proposals would cause financial hardships, not only to the individual colleges, but also to the students. Dr Andrew Cosh, bursar at Queens', said the joint report "grossly oversimplified" the position and underestimated the consequences.

"It is highly probable that the majority of colleges would be forced to raise their room rents. Such rent increases and the likelihood that undergraduates will be living away from home for longer, would put further burdens on student finances when they are already under severe pressure."

Dr Cosh added: "Shortening the length of the summer conference period would seriously diminish the income of most colleges at a time when they are being forced to rely more heavily on this source. For certain colleges the delay of a week would cause the complete loss of bookings of several weeks' duration as summer schools move elsewhere. Colleges would be forced to respond by reducing services and increasing student charges to compensate."

☐ Comprehensive schools have the lowest take-up rates for mathematics and science A levels, research for Government curriculum advisers showed yesterday.

Sixth-formers were much more likely to take maths, chemistry and physics A levels at grammar and independent schools, according to the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

Postgraduate vacancies, p43

Dons fight plan for expansion in green belt

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

DONS are accusing Cambridge University of acting immorally and putting profits before the environment by proposing to build student accommodation and prepare land for a new college to the west of the city.

The plan is supported by the city council, which has agreed to free an area of green belt called Nineteen Acre Field.

Funds are being sought for the new college, which would be the ninth built since the 1960s. But some academics say the university is treating the environment with contempt. The dispute erupted yesterday at an emergency meeting ordered by dons who had signed a petition demanding to meet administrators.

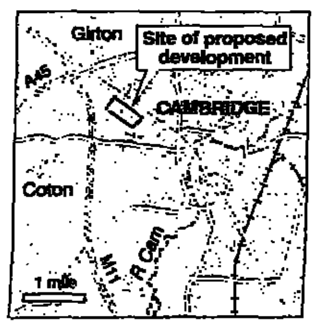
Dr Richard Grove, an historian at Clare Hall and founder of the Cambridge Green Belt Campaign, urged the university to withdraw its plans. "The green belt is under increasing pressure from developers," he said. "It is unacceptable that an academic institution like Cambridge should be grabbing big chunks of it. It is a very dangerous precedent. Developers everywhere will be able to say, 'A university like Cambridge can do it so why can't we?'."

The scheme has alarmed other academics and researchers, who say the university has not consulted them. Professor Donald Lynden-Bell, of the Institute of Astronomy, said: "It has come in as a back-door thing as part of some deal between the city and the university."

Stephen Fleet, the university's registrar, said: "There is a great shortage of accommodation for researchers and students. The development of Nineteen Acre Field would make an important contribution." A university spokeswoman added: "Cambridge is a medieval city without the infrastructure of, say, Bristol or London. Also, a lot of the departments are in Victorian buildings which are not appropriate for modern uses like science."

The university also says that its decision to seek the green-belt development, expected to be approved by the council later this month, is environmentally friendly. A bigger site, closer to the city centre and known as the rifle range, had been chosen initially but opposed by the local authority. Critics say the Labour-controlled council was concerned that it might lose votes in an area populated by Labour supporters.

Under the new deal, the rifle range will be protected in return for freeing Nineteen Acre Field, which the university owns. Dr Grove said: "It is like delisting a medieval church and listing a mock Tudor house."



Elyse Bartlett and her brother Alexander: "My broken heart is mended now"

Angel's wings spare girl trauma of heart surgery

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl has become the first in England to undergo a hole-in-the-heart treatment that avoids surgery.

Elyse Bartlett, from Fordingbridge, Hampshire, would have had to endure painful open-heart surgery involving ten days in hospital and six weeks of convalescence to correct the congenital defect that left her weak and breathless. Instead the hole was closed with "angel's wings", a device inserted through a small incision in her thigh and threaded into her heart. The procedure lasted less than two hours, was virtually painless and she returned home the next day.

Carol and Steve Bartlett, Elyse's parents, said their daughter was transformed by the treatment carried out at Southampton General Hospital. Mr Bartlett, 37, said: "She came back a new person. She was full of energy. We are still looking for the off switch."

His wife, also 37, said: "The angel's wings are wonderful because they save not only the physical but also the emotional trauma of surgery. We call her our little guinea-pig."

The stamp-sized device is shaped like an umbrella so it can be folded up and inserted into a vein. Dr Tony Salmon, consultant paediatric cardiologist, threaded it through a catheter to Elyse's heart and triggered the device to open it and release two square gauze-covered metal frames.

The device is made from an alloy of nickel and titanium, dubbed the memory metal because it can be folded up tightly but always springs back to its original shape. It is expected to last Elyse for the rest of her life.

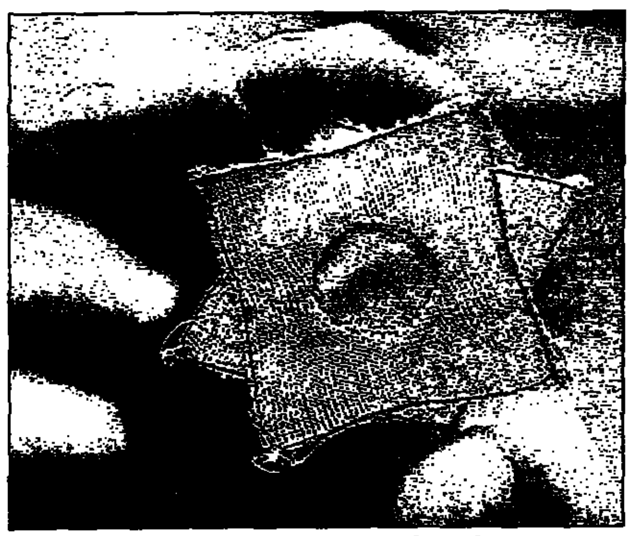
Yesterday, running round the garden with a friend, she said: "Dr Salmon mended my heart because it was broken. He put in the angel's wings and now I am better."

The device was developed by Dr Gladwin Das of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, who carried out the first operation last August. Hospitals in Southampton and Edinburgh were selected to run the first trials in Europe. Since Elyse had her operation last November, 18 patients aged from four to 61 have undergone the treatment in Britain.

Dr Salmon said the angel's wings were a significant improvement on previous devices. "The others are more like clam shells which clamp on to the heart wall. This fills the hole and is more like a surgical closure without the surgery."

Dr Salmon said the £2,600 device heralded a new era in the treatment of patients with a hole in the heart. "Its biggest advantage is it avoids open heart surgery, which means a scar on the chest and some considerable discomfort. Elyse's operation went very smoothly. She was out in a couple of days and is feeling very well indeed."

The treatment could help hundreds of patients a year in Britain but is not suitable for all holes in the heart.



The gauze-covered metal angel's wings were threaded through from Elyse's thigh to her heart

Prince to pay £1m tax on £4.9m income

By A Staff Reporter

THE Prince of Wales is likely to face another £1 million bill for income tax this year. His 1995 income from the Duchy of Cornwall, whose accounts were published yesterday, would total an estimated £3.9 million after tax.

The Prince is thought to spend more than £2 million on official expenses and about £1.5 million on private expenditure. Additional dividend income from shares worth about £2 million is likely to have produced up to an additional £50,000.

Duchy income for 1995 totalled £11,658,119. After accounting for operating costs of £6,759,230, including £1.5 million on repairs, estate maintenance and loan interest payments, a surplus of £4,898,889 — a 9.7 per cent rise on the previous year — was paid to the Prince as Duke of Cornwall. "The increase in the duchy surplus reflects continuing good performance in all sectors of the duchy's operations coupled with tight control of administrative costs," a spokesman for the duchy said.

Out of the duchy income, the Prince must fund his and the Princess's office and all aspects of their public and private lives, and of their children, as they do not receive money from the Civil List.

As a Crown body, the duchy is tax-exempt. Duchy income passed to the Prince is, therefore, also tax-exempt. However, the prince volunteers to pay income tax.

Tax on the Prince's £4.9 million duchy income is calculated, as with other taxpayers, after deducting his and the Princess's business expenditure. The biggest tax-deductible expense is staff costs for running the Prince and Princess's office to deal with their commitments.

It is believed the Prince will pay about £1 million tax on £2.5 million, after deducting an estimated £2.4 million in expenses. That would leave an estimated £1.5 million to meet the private annual expenditure of the Prince, Princess and their two children, Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11, plus additional provision for the boys' future.

The accounts, which were laid yesterday in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament, show how the duchy was managed in 1995. They do not reveal how the Prince spends the money.

The Prince paid income tax on his Duchy income for the first time two years ago, mirroring the Queen's decision to pay tax. The undisclosed tax bills for 1993-94 and 1994-95 were also thought to be in the region of £1 million each.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gregory: in Thai jail

Trafficker's sentence reduced

Sandra Gregory, the Briton jailed in Thailand for 25 years for drug trafficking, has been given a reprieve of three years and four months, an eighth of her sentence. Gregory, 32, from Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, was granted the reprieve under an amnesty given by the King of Thailand to celebrate his Golden Jubilee. Three unnamed male British prisoners will be set free under the amnesty.

Dive damages

Ian Farrant, 17, was awarded £250,000 as an interim payment after he was paralysed when he dived into a tidal pool at Margate, Kent, last year. The High Court ruled Thanet District Council was at fault.

Robinson visit

Mary Robinson, President of the Irish Republic, left Dublin for a four-day visit to the United States. She will meet President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, and Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Clunes divorce

Martin Clunes, 33, star of the TV comedy *Men Behaving Badly*, was granted a "quickie" divorce, ending his marriage to actress Lucy Aston, 32, on the ground that the couple had lived apart for more than two years.

Robbed in court

Police are investigating the theft of a wallet, cheque book and card from a judge's room in Croydon Crown Court. Judge Crush reported the loss on Monday. The public normally has no access to that part of the building.

Ladies swarm in

Swarms of Painted Lady butterflies from North Africa have arrived on farmland in East Anglia attracted, experts believe, by unusual but ideal weather conditions. The reddish brown and pink insects have a three-inch wingspan.

Sleepwalker fell 50ft to his death

By A Staff Reporter

A STUDENT was sleepwalking when he fell 50ft to his death from a science laboratory, an inquest was told yesterday. Alan Jackson, 21, fell asleep after a night of studying in the biology department at Leeds University.

Mr Jackson, who had a long history of sleepwalking, plunged from a fourth floor window in the early hours of May 1. His spectacles, which he would only ever take off before going to bed, were later found in his jacket.

Mr Jackson's mother Linda, who owns a shop with her husband Wilfred in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, said: "He used to sleepwalk around the house as a young boy and would often come into the shop. We were careful to keep the doors locked.

"When his body was found, his glasses were in his pocket. He always kept them on when he was awake." She added that her son was a devout Catholic and "suicide was against his religion."

Mr Jackson, a genetics student in his final year, fell in the covered walkway between two buildings. He had appeared "cheerful" to his housemates on the night he died.

Recording an open verdict, the Leeds Coroner, David Hinchliff, said: "I cannot be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that he planned to end his life."

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Tories attack Cash over Goldsmith funding link

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

BILL CASH *confirmed* yesterday that the think-tank that advised him on the drafting of his Referendum Bill is partly funded by the billionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith.

The disclosure, which surprised few Euro-sceptic MPs, prompted angry attacks from Tory loyalists and the Labour Party. It came only hours before the vote yesterday afternoon, which provoked another bout of Tory infighting.

Many Tory MPs are facing a challenge at the general election from Sir James's Referendum Party. Quentin Davies, a senior Tory and vice-chairman of the European Movement, said: "Bill Cash should explain to his colleagues how it is possible to reconcile party loyalty by receiving political funding from a rival party. Conflicts of interest of this kind are extremely dangerous."

Mr Cash drew up his Bill, which calls for a referendum on Britain's future in the EU, after consulting Sir James and the European Foundation, of which he is chairman. The foundation, an anti-federalist think-tank, is based in Pall Mall. Mr Cash, speaking on the Channel 4 programme *House to House*, said he had never made any secret about Sir James's funding. His comments came the day after he had attended a private party with Sir James where the former Chancellor Norman Lamont presented options for withdrawal from the EU.

The Referendum Party placed a full-page advertisement in *The Times* to endorse Mr Cash's Bill. Sir James is planning to field up to 600 general election candidates, at a cost of £20 million.

Tory MPs who voted for the Bill were told it would reduce the threat of a Referendum Party candidate facing them at the election. Mr Davies described the tactic as unprecedented and "blatant blackmail" by Sir James. "It was no subtle hint. It was an overt threat. Sir James has been going round waving his wallet and saying if you don't support the Bill he will put up a candidate against them at the next general election."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, described Mr Cash's comments as "dynamite". He said: "It shows that the Conservative Party is simply falling apart. It will blow up in Mr Cash's face, and the face of half the Tory party with him."

Mr Cash was furious that the Goldsmith financial connection had overshadowed the size of the Tory rebellion. His supporters said that the connection had been exaggerated *by pro-European Tories as* part of their fightback.

Asked by the Channel 4 programme whether he accepted money from Sir James, Mr Cash said: "Yes. It's not a question of finance . . . I have never made any secret of that, in fact he has made massive contributions to the Conservative Party. There is no question of this being anything other than a battle about an issue of principle."

Later Mr Cash said that he had not meant to suggest that Sir James had pumped money into his Referendum Bill campaign. "James Goldsmith makes contributions to many organisations and he happens to have made a contribution to the European Foundation but this is my Bill not the European Foundation's Bill. So the two are separate and I have no connection with the Referendum Party."

A spokesman for the Referendum Party said last night: "Sir James Goldsmith has contributed to numerous think-tanks over the years including the Centre for Policy Studies, whose establishment *he underwrote, the Adam* Smith Institute, the Institute of Economic Affairs and many others. He has also been a substantial supporter for the Conservative Party over the years."

Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, told a European Movement press conference that the EU-withdrawal faction had come out of the closet and was dancing to the Goldsmith tune. MPs had delivered a clear message: "Sir James Goldsmith and his friends go home. Britain remains part of Europe."

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Leading article, page 19

YES VOTES

The following MPs voted for the Referendum Bill:

CONSERVATIVE

Jonathan Aitken, Richard Alexander, Jacques Arnold, Kenneth Baker, Vivian Bendall, John Biffen, Sir Richard Body, Sir Rhodes Boyson, Julian Brazier, Michael Brown, Nicholas Budgen, John Butcher, John Carlisle, Michael Carttiss, William Cash, Winston Churchill, Dr Michael Clark, Michael Colvin, Stephen Day, Iain Duncan Smith, Bob Dunn David Evans, Barry Field, Sir Peter Fry, Roger Gale, Phil Gallie, Sir George Gardiner, Christopher Gill, Teresa Gorman, Sir John Gorst, Harry Greenway, Peter Griffiths, Warren Hawksley, Andrew Hunter, Toby Jessel, Robert Key, Norman Lamont, Sir Ivan Lawrence, Barry Legg, Edward Leigh, Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd, Michael Lord, Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, Paul Marland, Tony Marlow, John Marshall, Iain Mills, Patrick Nicholls, David Nicholson, James Pawsey, Elizabeth Peacock, David Porter, John Redwood, Marion Roe, David Shaw, Richard Shepherd, Sir Trevor Skeet, Sir Michael Spicer, Anthony Steen, Allan Stewart, David Sumberg, Walter Sweeney, Sir Peter Tapsell, Sir Teddy Taylor, Roy Thomason, John Townend, Richard Tracey, Ian Twinn, Sir Gerard Vaughan, Bill Walker, Charles Wardle, John Whittingdale, Ann Winterton, Nicholas Winterton.

LABOUR

Tony Benn, Ronnie Campbell, Dennis Canavan, Jeremy Corbyn, Denzil Davies, Terry Davis, Ken Livingstone, Max Madden, Austin Mitchell, Ray Powell, Alan Simpson, Dennis Skinner, Llewellyn Smith, Nigel Spearing.

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

Nick Harvey, Liz Lynne.

ULSTER UNIONIST

Roy Beggs, Clifford Forsythe, Sir James Molyneaux, William Ross, the Rev Martin Smyth.

Major's attitude lets hard-core sceptics prosper

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

John Major is the main loser from yesterday's Commons exchanges on Europe — a victim rather than a master of the divisions in the Tory party. It was not so much the scale of backbench support for Bill Cash's Referendum Bill. This was anyway somewhat less than some sceptics had been predicting beforehand; at 74, plus tellers, it was just eight more than voted for Iain Duncan Smith's ten-minute rule Bill on the European Court — a sizeable, but not unexpected, expression of dissent.

More significant was Mr Major's attitude. No one doubts the legacy of divisions which he has had to handle over the past five years. But his failure to offer a clear lead and to confront the hard-core sceptics has allowed them to prosper.

The Tory leadership has responded weakly to the challenge of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. This is not just having amiable discussions about how Britain might achieve a looser relationship with the European Union. Sir James is threatening to put up candidates against Tory MPs. That is normally regarded as sufficient reason for a total cessation of relations. It is all very well for Mr Major to say that Sir James is not going to change government policy, but in the Commons yesterday he refused to criticise either Mr Cash's Referendum Bill or his willingness to accept *money for his* European Foundation from Sir James. The continued appeasement of Sir James threatens the integrity of the Tory party.

Mr Major's serious misjudgment in starting the policy of non-cooperation with the European Union has, as Lord Howe of Aberavon yesterday told a Federal Trust conference, played into the hands of the sceptics, "ratcheting events further and further towards the *politics of* detachment and withdrawal". The Government is sending out confusing and contradictory signals, as Edwina Currie rightly pointed out yesterday. Malcolm Rifkind is clutching *at any* hint of compromise from the rest of the EU to declare victory and reach agreement. As he said last night at the Diplomatic Banquet, Britain is not seeking confrontation with the rest of Europe or trying to whip up anti-European feeling: "we *are committed to the European* Union and its success". That is not the mood of many Tory MPs or of many tabloids.

Mr Rifkind and the Cabinet pro-Europeans are desperately trying to stop the beef dispute turning into a wider battle with Europe. Not only have events got out of control, as the *support* for the Cash Bill shows, but it will be hard to reach a compromise on the beef issue itself. The *stridently anti-European* language in many papers and the Government's policy of non-cooperation, vetoing obviously desirable measures, have predictably antagonised many other countries. Opinion in Germany remains very hostile to Britain's position.

Lord Howe drew a revealing parallel between Mr Major and a trade union leader "who has taken his members out on strike, or at least made them work to rule. The most *testing moment for such* a leader is when he decides to settle for a deal, and then has to persuade his members to return to normal working. Sooner rather than later the Prime Minister will face the need to do exactly that." That, as Lord Howe remarked, will "require from him a decision of the *utmost* courage — greater perhaps than even he has so far had to find".

If Mr *Rifkind* can agree a framework, however fudged, for a phased removal of the beef ban by the Florence summit at the end of next week, Mr Major will have to confront his party with the implications. A continuation of the beef confrontation is not in the interests of Britain, the Tory party or Mr Major. It suits only those hard-core sceptics who want to renegotiate Britain's membership of the EU.

PETER RIDDELL

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Spotlight on Aznar in opera drama

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A *MELODRAMA* is being played out at Madrid's opera house, shut since 1987 for refurbishment. The plot involves a damsel in distress, a menacing minister and a tenor in shining armour.

The argument at the Teatro Real concerns the decision of the Spanish Government to dispense abruptly with the services of Elena Salgado, the theatre's director.

Señora Salgado was appointed by the previous Socialist Government, but Esperanza Aguirre, the Minister for Culture in the new conservative Government, has made clear that she would like a less Socialist figure at the helm of the opera house.

Ministry of Culture officials have been leaning on the director to resign, but she is putting up a fight. The opera house is due to reopen next year after a decade of renovations and Señora Salgado is determined to be in her post when the ribbons are cut and music returns.

She has appealed to Plácido Domingo, the renowned tenor, to intercede on her behalf with José Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister. Domingo, who will play the title role in Wagner's *Parsifal* on the reopening night, has promised to "try his best". Perhaps appropriately the noble Parsifal rescues a woman from an unpleasant fate.

However, the Ministry of Culture is insisting that Señora Salgado vacate her office before the week is over "or face the consequences".

Salgado: under pressure

British visa delay angers Euro 96 fans from Russia

BY RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS THE Russian team lost its first game in Euro 96 yesterday, a war of words broke out between London and Moscow over allegations that Britain had refused to grant visas to scores of fans wanting to watch their team.

British officials denied Russian complaints of delay, harassment and rudeness to fans seeking visas and expressed bewilderment at threats of tit-for-tat go-slow action in processing British visa applications. However, Russian officials strongly supported complaints in Moscow that Britain had left dozens of people stranded, unable to make it in time for the Russia-Italy match last night.

Although the British Embassy said yesterday that "only a handful" of applicants had been rejected among more than 1,000 who had applied to watch Russia play, the real figure appeared to be much higher. Info Bank Sport Marketing, the travel agent approved by the Russian Football Union, said that, of the 600 people who paid an average £1,600 each to go to Britain, about 70 had been rejected and lost their money.

"It has been a nightmare dealing with the British Embassy," Natalia Bogatiryova, the travel manager, said. She said that about half her customers had been called in for interviews at the embassy, where they endured humiliating questioning by visa officers who questioned them on personal details and football trivia. Many of those approved received their visas only on Monday, in some cases only minutes before their flight.

"The visa officers were negative and hostile. Some customers were told straight to their faces that they had forged documents, that their money was stolen or that they were lying. One person was asked the shoe size of a famous Russian footballer," she said.

One of the disappointed fans was Mikhail Astafiyev, who paid £1,960 to attend the Russian matches but was was turned down flat by the British Embassy yesterday morning after travelling from his home town in the southern Urals.

"I am disappointed and furious," said the amateur footballer who works for a pharmaceutical company. He said that he was asked to prove his qualifications and salary records, documents he had not expected to need to watch Russia play football. "It was clear to me from the moment that the visa officer began asking questions that he had no intention of granting me a visa. He was very aggressive and suspicious. I was astounded that someone at the British Embassy would behave that way."

The Foreign Office denied yesterday that many Russians had been turned away. An official said that 90 per cent had been granted visas almost immediately; only one in ten had been interviewed. There had been no reports of complaints from Moscow.

"We have tried to do everything that we can to ensure that every applicant is dealt with as quickly as possible," he said. "But people have to use common sense and put their visas in on time." He said the embassy had a duty to ensure that those applying for visas really were football supporters, but denied than anyone had been asked detailed questions about football.

The Russians said last week that, unless the issue was resolved, they would start copying British tactics. That threat has apparently been put into practice. One teacher, who received a visa only at the last minute, said her group was told by Russian consular officials that only seven visas would be issued on Monday, because that was the number issued by the British Embassy in Moscow.

Euro 96, pages 47-49, 52

Firemen and police pass the children to safety from the kindergarten

The critically injured man is taken to hospital after being shot

Suitcase bomber shot as teacher saves children

FROM REUTER IN MINSK

A KINDERGARTEN teacher slipped 15 children to safety through a lavatory window yesterday after they were held hostage by a man carrying a suitcase of explosives in Minsk. Soon after, he was shot and critically wounded by police.

"The man was hit by a sharpshooter and has a single wound," said Sergei Khripach, an Interior Ministry spokesman. "He is in very serious condition in hospital. He is barely alive."

Larisa Sokolova, one of two teachers taken hostage, said later that the man, identified as Alexander Zyulkov, who was born in 1953, entered a classroom in the capital of the former Soviet republic of Belorussia. For more than three hours he told the children periodically to lie on the floor. She tried to keep him calm as his hands frequently trembled.

She was allowed to take the children to the lavatory and slipped them through a window and down a ladder. She then heard gunshots and returned to find the man lying on the floor.

He had apparently been protesting against a court decision to send him for psychiatric treatment.

Foreign Office mocks City envoys

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CALLS by Labour for prominent businessmen to be drafted into the Foreign Office to head embassies in fast-growing Asian countries have been ridiculed by former ambassadors, and are likely to run into strong resistance in Whitehall.

The Foreign Office, anxious not to be drawn into comment on a party political matter, would not speculate on the proposals put forward by Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary. Serving ambassadors also declined to comment. However, retired heads of mission, criticised the proposals as impractical and ill-conceived.

Two main objections were immediately put forward. First, British exporters want a general overview of affairs in the country where they want to do business, rather than simply a narrow look at business opportunities. Secondly, neither the host country nor British competitors of the firm for which a businessman worked before being made ambassador would ever believe he was acting fairly and impartially. "The proposal is the wrong way round," said Sir Nicholas Henderson, a former Ambassador in Washington. "There is a lot to be said for taking people into the Foreign Office from business early in their careers. Missions have been doing that for years."

He said the Foreign Office was also used to political appointments, especially in Washington, Paris or at the United Nations. However, he did not think a businessman would have the contacts or necessary experience that would enable him to take over an embassy.

"We are rather like a cocktail in the Foreign Office — people think diplomats stand around drinking too much and ought to be shaken up. Every three years or so there's a new idea for shaking up the service."

Another former ambassador said that a diplomat needed to have a broad knowledge of conditions in a country. This is what the visiting head of a big British company needed to know; the details of trade fairs or export opportunities should be left to commercial sections.

The last big shake-up of the Foreign Office was undertaken by the Central Policy Review Staff in 1977, under a Labour Government.

Kohl's party agrees longer shop hours

Berlin: Germany's governing party agreed yesterday to allow stores to stay open longer in the hopes of boosting employment and stimulating the sluggish economy.

The long-debated change would allow stores to stay open until 8pm during the week and until 4pm on Saturdays. The compromise would also lift a prewar law that forbids bakeries from baking bread on Sundays. Currently, most stores are required to close by 6.30pm on weekdays and 2pm on Saturdays. *(AP)*

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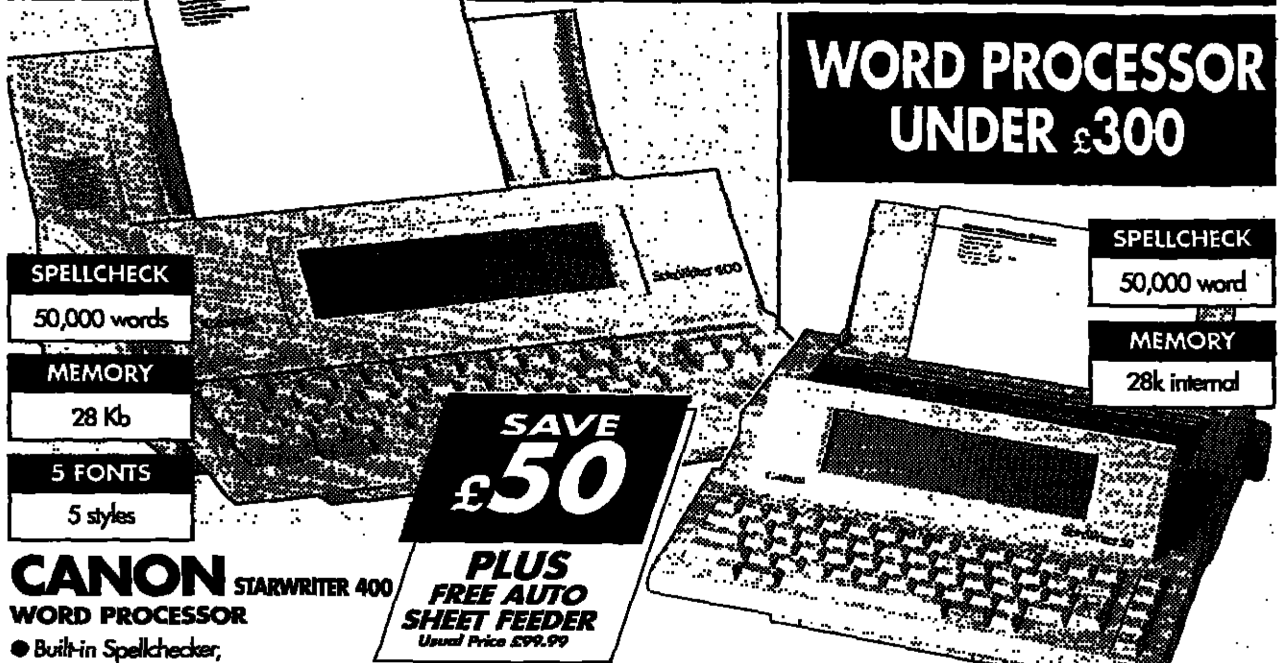

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Yeltsin conjures up fear of Soviet past in massacre town

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin played a trump card against his main Communist rival in the presidential race yesterday when he raised the spectre of Soviet repression by visiting the scene of one of the bloodiest chapters in modern Russian history.

With only three days left of campaigning ahead of Sunday's polls, he threw Gennadi Zyuganov, his Communist rival, on the defensive when he made a pilgrimage to the southern town of Novocherkassk. The town, a centre for the Don Cossack community, was the site of a massacre in the summer of 1962 when Soviet troops killed scores of civilians during food riots.

"There is no, and never will be a, return to the past," said Mr Yeltsin, who solemnly laid a wreath on the simple stone memorial to the dead.

Although details of the massacre were kept secret until the late 1980s, it has now been established that at least 70 people were killed. According to Geoffrey Hosking's authoritative *History of the Soviet Union*, the unrest was precipitated by government price increases for milk and meat. In Novocherkassk, the rise coincided with moves at a factory to reduce pay. Workers revolted and when police came to arrest the ringleaders, a city-wide strike was observed.

Special KGB troops guarding the local Communist Party building fired shots in the air to disperse the demonstrators. In the ensuing riot, scores of unarmed civilians were shot down as the authorities struggled to restore order.

The memories of the Soviet-era repression remain vivid for the Cossacks, the Tsar's fierce frontiersmen, whose communities had already been purged by the Bolsheviks. Yesterday, hundreds of Cossacks pledged their support for President Yeltsin and presented him with a cavalry sabre, which they urged him to use "to cut off the heads of your enemies".

The Kremlin leader insisted, however, that he intended to beat his opponents through the ballot box at Sunday's elections rather than with cold steel. He signed a decree granting the victims of the unrest compensation.

The campaign visit threw Mr Zyuganov on the defensive. Asked, if as Communist Party leader he was prepared to denounce the massacre, Mr Zyuganov, who visited the town earlier in the campaign, said he condemned the incident but that he could bear no responsibility since he was only a schoolboy at the time of the riots.

"Lately those who call themselves democrats and liberals brought about the deaths of 60,000 people in Chechenia," said the Communist Party leader at a press conference in Moscow. "These people are trying to get political mileage out of the events of Novocherkassk. I am against people speculating on bloodshed and death."

Russian troops start phased withdrawal from Chechenia

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

THE first Russian division began to pull out of the mountains of Chechenia yesterday in line with the peace deal signed on Monday.

The pact crowns a series of efforts by President Yeltsin to solve the 18-month conflict, one of the biggest obstacles to his being re-elected in presidential elections on Sunday.

The first soldiers to leave were from the 245th Motorised Division, stationed in the Shatoi region in southern Chechenia, which suffered almost 100 casualties in an ambush in April. Under the accord, all but two Russian brigades should have left by the end of August, and the Chechen rebels have agreed to hand in their weapons. The fragility of the accord was revealed, however, when a column of cars carrying members of a rebel delegation, negotiators from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and reporters, was twice attacked near the Chechen capital, Grozny, as it travelled back from the talks in the neighbouring region of Ingushetia.

Several explosions rocked the convoy, at least six people were hurt and a window was smashed in the car of Tim Guldimann, the head of the OSCE mission in Grozny.

The accord appears to have been signed in haste before the presidential election and avoids several issues, particularly the rebels' demands for full secession. The rapid timetable for the pullout of troops suggests war-weariness on the Russian side.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

The smoke of conflict hangs over the hills in this print of the Battle of Borodino in September 1812 during Napoleon's invasion of Russia

Communists win battle of Borodino

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN BORODINO

THE plain white obelisks and golden eagles dotted across the fields at Borodino bear witness to the great battle in which Napoleon's army suffered huge losses on its march towards Moscow.

In the village of Borodino today the Communists have already won the battle against President Yeltsin. The question for them is whether they can galvanise enough votes and storm Moscow.

Despite all predictions to the contrary, it may still be possible. Opinion polls are putting President Yeltsin more than ten percentage points ahead of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader. But pollsters are saying that they may have failed to record a rich seam of hatred for Mr Yeltsin among pensioners and the 30 million rural voters. "We just do not penetrate to some layers of our society," Leonid Sedov, a leading opinion pollster, said recently.

Borodino is a stark contrast to the prosperity of Moscow, 75 miles away. There are few cars, people are shabbily dressed and the roads are not properly covered with asphalt.

Father Igor Vostryakov, an energetic young priest, looks after 20 parishes and churches in the area, including the dove-blue domes of a 17th-century church that is the only building surviving from the era of the battle. His parishioners, he said, were the losers from five years of post-Communist reforms. Since the collective farm closed two years ago, the old people have almost nothing to live on and most of the young have left to look for work. With a few exceptions — some people who were thankful to Mr Yeltsin for opening the churches — they were going to vote for Mr Zyuganov.

"I think that, if the elections are honest, the Communists will win," Father Igor said. "And judging by the provinces, they are going to vote en masse."

Nadezhda Mikhailova, a local woman dressed in a mauve kerchief and ragged slippers, was collecting water in two buckets from the village pump. She said she was 51 but looked much older. The £20 a month she earned working at the Borodino Museum was barely enough to keep the family in bread, she said. "I want Zyuganov, and so does my husband and my mother," she said.

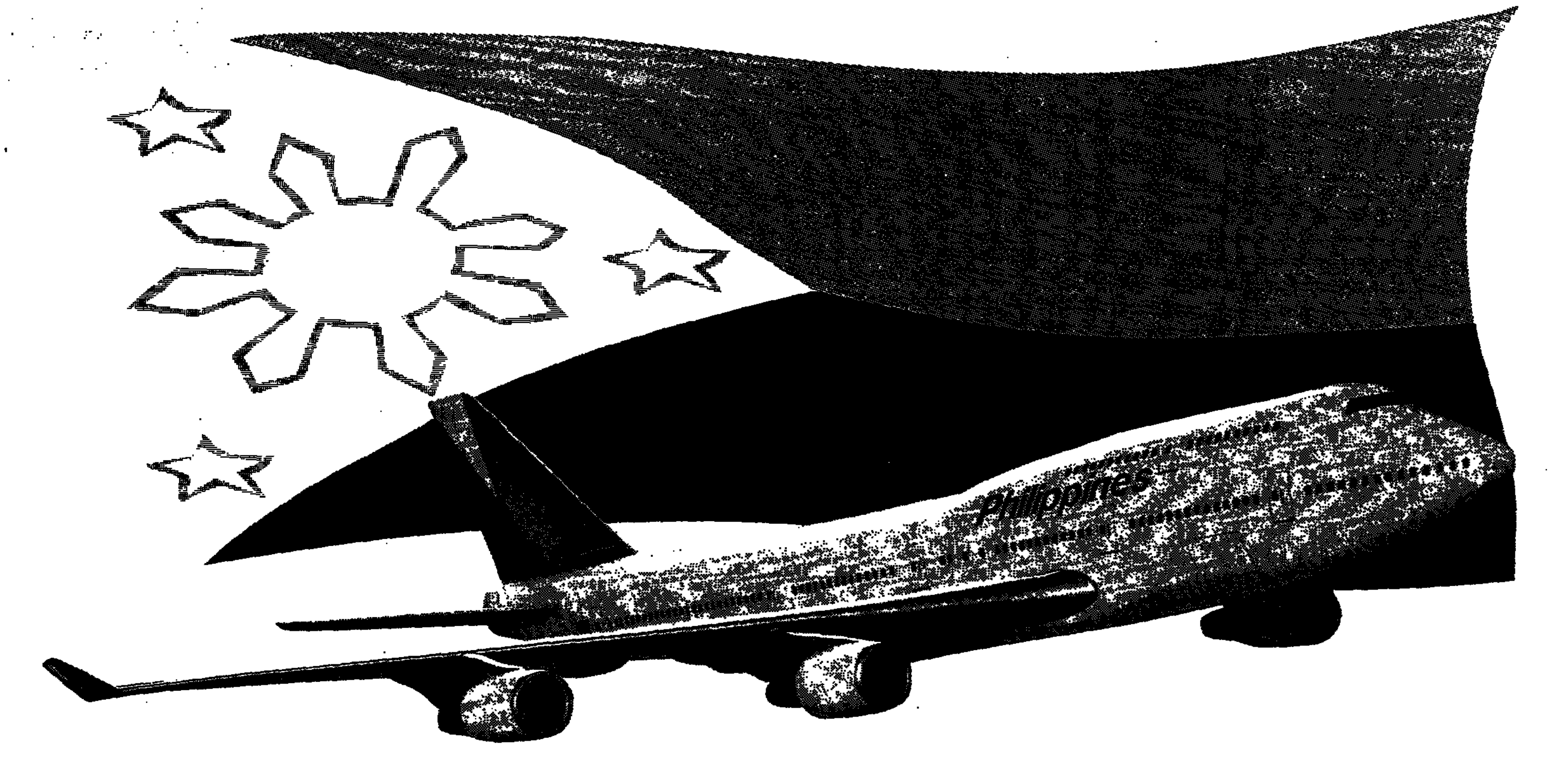
In Valuyevo, the next village, the cowshed had lost its roof and the only vehicle on the main street was the wreck of a bus. Vasili and Nikolai, brothers-in-law sitting chatting on a bench, were Zyuganov voters. "It is disgusting," Vasili said of the Yeltsin campaign. A veteran of the siege of Leningrad, he was an admirer of Margaret Thatcher and said Russia needed a "man of iron".

Nikolai got out another Belomorkanal, an old Soviet paper cigarette. His shoes were done up with wire. "Everything has been destroyed here," he said. "Go and look at the cowshed. You cannot live here without a cow."

If the Communists receive less than overwhelming support in the villages, it may be due to oversight rather than lack of support. In the old days people waited for instructions on how to vote from Communist agitators, but none had been to Valuyevo. "Of course we will vote, but we do not know how yet," Nina Sergeyeva said, standing in her yard peeling potatoes into a bucket. "There should be some kind of meeting, some kind of lecture, but people do not understand what to do."

If Mr Yeltsin wins a few votes here, it will be thanks to a dynamic election campaign that succeeded in eclipsing Mr Zyuganov from the television screens.

Zyuganov: gaining rural votes



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Jackson sued after denying sex attack

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

LEGAL problems have hit Michael Jackson again. The pop singer has been sued in a multimillion-dollar action by the father of a boy he is alleged to have molested in 1993.

The case was settled out of court with a settlement said to be worth $15 million (£9.8 million) to the 13-year-old. The child's father is now claiming that the settlement included a confidentiality agreement that Jackson may have broken with comments he made on a network television programme last year.

Jackson told an interviewer that the molestation charges were "lies, lies, lies". He added: "There is not one iota of information that was found that could connect me."

The case papers were lodged last month in a Santa Barbara court. The action names as defendants not only Jackson but also Lisa Marie, his estranged wife, Diane Sawyer, the presenter of the chat show, and others associated with the programme. They were "unjustly enriched" by the statements, the plaintiffs claim.

The court papers stated that Jackson has "developed, orchestrated, participated and carried out a scheme to accuse falsely the minor of lying about his claims that he was sexually assaulted and molested".

Jackson said: "The allegations made in the lawsuit are false and I will vigorously challenge them."

Jackson: lawsuit claims confidentiality breach

Canada fury after Juppé talks of Quebec 'resistance'

BY QUENTIN LETTS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, angered federalists during a visit to Canada when he appeared to compare the French-speaking separatists of Quebec to resistance fighters in the Second World War.

M Juppé hailed what he called "the spirit of resistance" of French-speaking Canadians. At a ceremony with Lucien Bouchard, the separatist Premier of Quebec, M Juppé said: "Quebeckers do not take the easy way out, because they know the great lesson of history: the spirit of peoples is never better forged than in resistance." In French, the word has rich evocations of the *maquis* who fought the Nazi occupation in the 1940s.

Keith Henderson, leader of the mainly English-speaking Equality Party which opposes Quebec independence, said yesterday that the remarks were totally inappropriate. He said: "It fills me with disgust that a French politician can hark back to the Resistance when Canadian soldiers gave their lives to liberate France from Nazi domination." He accused M Juppé of "hypocrisy and a lack of gratitude".

Howard Galganov, a Montreal businessman who on Sunday led a rally of 7,000 Quebec federalists on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, said: "What are the French-speakers meant to be resisting? Not only are their rights guaranteed, they are also restricting the freedoms of English-speaking people." Referring to M Juppé, he said: "This guy is an idiot. His remarks are an insult to people who fought for democracy and freedom."

At the start of his three-day Canadian tour, during meetings with Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, M Juppé avoided all mention of Quebec sovereignty. At Monday night's meeting in Quebec, however, he told a mainly French-speaking audience: "Whatever destiny you choose, France will be at your side."

Last autumn separatists narrowly lost a referendum on the future of Quebec, the second such result in recent years. Mr Bouchard and his allies, who view independence as inevitable, have said that they intend to push for a third referendum. Mr Bouchard said that M Juppé was following the "legacy" of the late President de Gaulle who in 1967 uttered the cry "Vive le Québec libre!" in support of separatism. M Juppé, while taking note of the convention that sovereign states do not interfere with one another's affairs, saluted de Gaulle's remark by speaking of his "unique poetry and ardour" in relation to Quebec.

M Juppé's resistance remarks, even if they were not meant to evoke the *maquis*, appear ill chosen, given the fact that French-speakers exercise great power in Quebec and have been accused of bullying non-separatist groups, including Jewish people and "ethnics" whom they partly blamed for last autumn's referendum result.

A recent poll of English-speaking Quebeckers suggested that only half of them expected to be living there in five years' time.

The interpretation of M Juppé's words as a reference to the wartime Resistance is also unfortunate, given the fears of violence in Quebec between federalists and separatists.

Graffiti have appeared in Montreal which suggest that some hardliners on both sides may be considering taking up arms, and a widely publicised paper by Robert Lecker, a McGill University professor, recently predicted that Montreal, which retains a large non-French-speaking population, may go the way of Belfast if community tensions are not eased. In such circumstances, the use of "Resistance" looks at best to be ill judged.

Michelle Roderick hugs Dr Monte Fullerton, one of two surgeons who separated her Siamese twins, below

Twins go home to start separate lives

BY QUENTIN LETTS

EYES screwed up against the bright daylight, Siamese twins Shawna and Janelle Roderick left hospital for home after being separated by surgeons in California.

The infants, who were joined at the liver when they were born on May 1, have put on 2lb each since the four-hour operation on May 30 to separate them and now each weigh 8lb. Fewer than 100 pairs of Siamese twins have survived separation operations, but doctors at the Loma Linda University Medical Centre are confident the Roderick girls will be a rare success.

Abortion rift mars Dole farewell

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE marred an otherwise glorious Senate departure yesterday by reopening the bitter Republican abortion rift, days after achieving a compromise.

He infuriated social conservatives by saying his proposed "declaration of tolerance" for those with opposing views on moral issues should appear not in the party election manifesto's preamble where it would carry less weight, as his aides had promised, but where the text calls for a constitutional abortion ban.

"It has been resolved. I made that decision. It is not negotiable," the Republican presidential nominee told a television interviewer on Monday night. "If you want to make it clear to people that we are tolerant ... it ought to be right up there where people can see it." Exasperated conservative leaders gave a warning of a damaging public battle at August's Republican convention.

Pat Buchanan, who will have about 150 delegates, vowed to fight the new formulation, as did the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council. But Mr Dole's move delighted pro-choice Republicans and with the latest poll showing 72 per cent of Americans against banning abortion it made some electoral sense.

Mr Dole, 72, formally resigned at 2pm yesterday, ending 35 years in the House and Senate and a record 11 years as leader of Senate Republicans. All morning senators of both parties delivered tributes before Mr Dole, fighting back tears, delivered his televised farewell.

Avoiding partisan politics, he recalled with humour and nostalgia the highlights of his career and great figures he had served with, saying: "It's been a great ride."

☐ **Whitewater questions:** Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, has broadened his investigation of the White House to include its improper requisitioning of confidential FBI files on about 340 Republicans. Anthony Marceca, the army investigator who requested and processed them in 1993, was questioned on Monday.

The White House has called the affair an innocent bureaucratic error, but Republicans have accused President Clinton's aides of emulating the Nixon White House by seeking damaging information on political enemies.

Travolta stomps off Polanski set after 'titanic clash of egos'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JOHN TRAVOLTA has pirouetted off the French set of his latest film, *The Double*, after a bitter disagreement with Roman Polanski, the volatile director.

Shooting for the £11 million film, in which Travolta was to star alongside Isabelle Adjani, the French actress, and Jean Reno, was scheduled to start at the Boulogne-Billancourt studios on Monday. Yesterday, however, Mr Polanski was desperately seeking a top-name replacement.

The dispute was described as a "difference of views on the script" of the film, which is based on Dostoevsky's novel, and in particular the interpretation of Travolta's character.

The disagreement apparently reached a peak when Travolta, the star of *Saturday Night Fever* and *Pulp Fiction*, demanded that Mr Polanski should be sacked in exchange for his continued participation.

The British backers of the film refused, and Travolta flew back to the United States at the end of last week.

Initially, producers said Travolta had gone home to deal with a medical crisis involving his son, but insiders said the real reason for his abrupt departure was a titanic clash of egos.

Mr Polanski has been working on the film for a year, and producers insisted that filming had merely been delayed for "a few weeks" while a double was found for Travolta.

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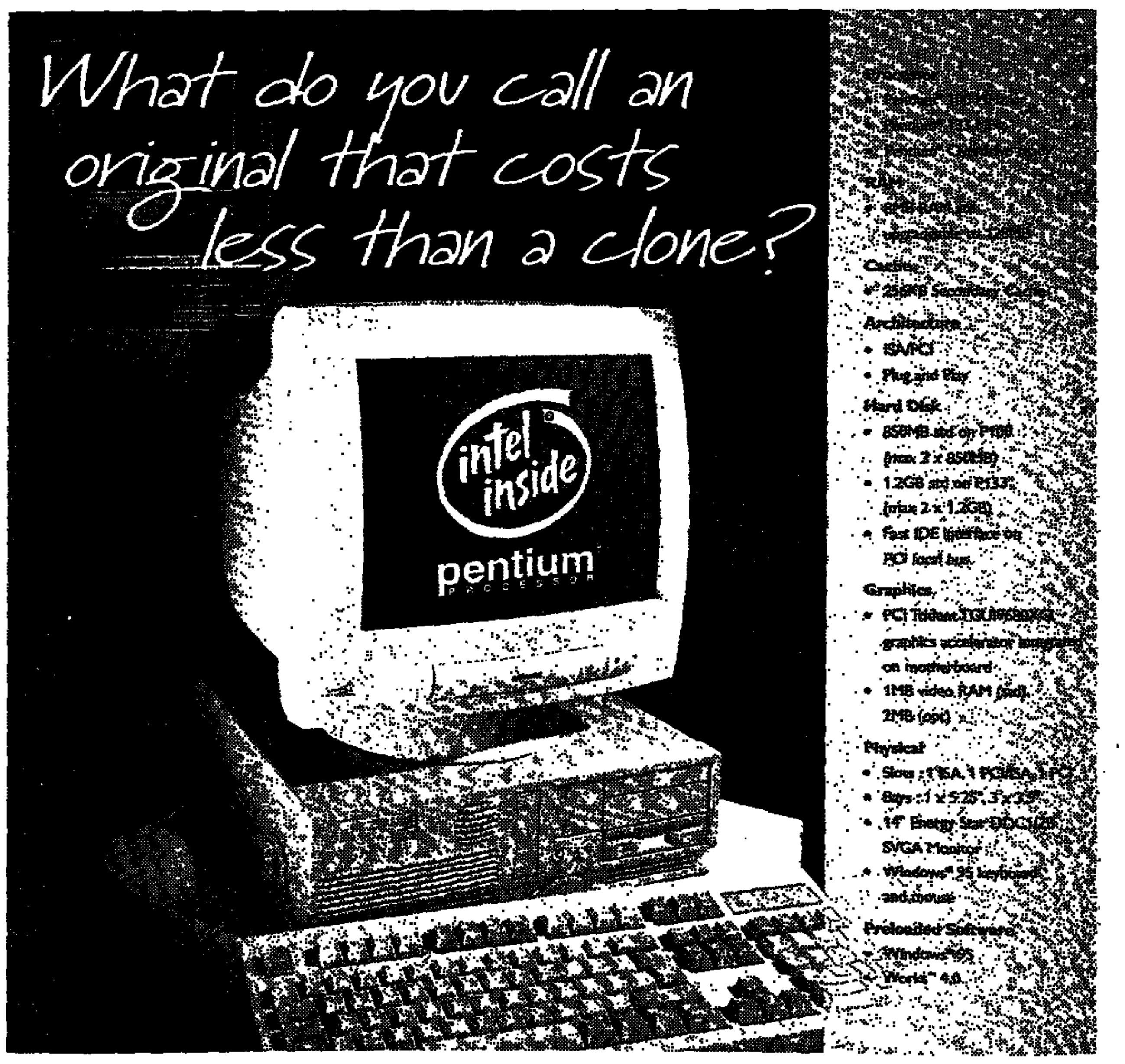

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Junta trial told of Haile Selassie's last tearful hours

FROM NICHOLAS KOTCH IN ADDIS ABABA

A SERVANT of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie described yesterday how the imprisoned monarch wept and prayed on the night of August 25, 1975, when he realised he was going to be killed.

"Is it true, Ethiopians, that I have not strived for you?" the 83-year-old emperor cried out, according to evidence at the trial of former Marxist rulers accused of genocide.

"He sprinkled the floor with his tears. He knelt down and wept and started praying," the imperial servant, a prosecution witness, told the court in Addis Ababa. "He understood that it was the end of his days."

The three prosecution witnesses who testified said Haile Selassie was found dead early on August 26 and buried the same day by the Dergue, the military junta headed by Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, which overthrew the monarchy in September 1974.

The court is trying 71 members of the Dergue, of whom 25, including Colonel Mengistu, are being tried in absentia. They face the death penalty if convicted. The junta was ousted by rebels in 1991 and at least 1,700 of its former officials have been in custody for up to five years waiting to be charged and tried. The presiding judge has forbidden the public identification of witnesses.

At earlier hearings, witnesses have said that the Dergue ordered the summary execution of imperial officials.

Yesterday's first witness, a manservant, told of what he said were two probable assassination attempts on August 25 in Haile Selassie's apartments in the Grand Palace where he was held prisoner.

The first was "an electric device" installed in the emperor's chair. It failed to function. The second was a pill that the emperor refused to swallow.

The second witness, who was looking after the emperor that night, said guards ordered him to leave the adjoining room where he normally slept. Haile Selassie wept when the man told him he would be sleeping alone.

"The next morning I knocked on his bedroom door and opened it. There was a sort of odour and his face was totally black." The witness said the emperor's bedclothes were not his usual ones, and a bandage was around his neck. Witnesses said that Colonel Mengistu, who is now in exile in Zimbabwe, went to the palace and viewed the body.

The third witness, a palace maintenance worker, said security officials ordered him to dig four graves in the grounds that morning. The emperor was buried in the coffin he had chosen. It was "like a Samsonite suitcase".

The witness said he helped to excavate the area after the fall of the Dergue when the alleged murder of the emperor came to light. He said the coffin and body had "wasted away". He thought that was due to a chemical.

"When we had dug three yards we found one arm and one leg. We started collecting all the remains of the skeleton. Anyone who knew his photograph could identify him," the witness said. "No human being should have been buried there. People are buried in church," he said.

The accused and their lawyers did not cross-examine the witnesses because none of the defendants in court was implicated by the evidence.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow. *(Reuter)*

Haile Selassie shortly before his death. "He understood that it was the end of his days"

Bao: writing letter defies instructions

Dissident complains of life 'in a cage'

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

BAO TONG, who until his recent release from prison was China's highest-ranking political prisoner, has written to senior party and government leaders to complain that his continuing presence "in a cage" is illegal.

Once a central committee member, secretary to the politburo standing committee and chief aid to Zhao Ziyang, who was then party general secretary, Mr Bao was arrested in May 1989, just before the Tiananmen killings, after being charged with disclosing state secrets to the demonstrators. Freed on May 27 after seven years in jail, Mr Bao, 63, was ordered into isolation in a suburb of Peking.

In his letter to 30 leaders, Mr Bao said: "My sentence was fulfilled 15 days ago. But I have been confined to the Western Hills and stripped of my right to go home. In order to protect the law, which I take seriously, I appeal to the party and government leaders to dispute this illegal act."

Referring to his recent detention in Qincheng, Mr Bao said: "I have now been thrown into this new pen, where there is no law, no lawyers, no phone, and no doctors." Mr Bao's family says he is ill.

By sending the letter, Mr Bao is defying instructions that he must publish no comments inside or outside the country that could harm China, must see no foreigners and must not leave his quarters.

What the authorities fear is Mr Bao's knowledge of the divisions among Chinese leaders during the Tiananmen demonstrations. Mr Zhao, who was also arrested in May 1989 for being too sympathetic to the demonstrators, favoured a soft line; Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, favoured the crackdown that crushed the uprising on June 3-4.

☐ Kathmandu: A dozen protesters were arrested here yesterday as they demonstrated against China's nuclear test on June 8 and tried to move towards the Chinese Embassy to hand over a letter. *(AFP)*

Hong Kong to rewrite history with Chinese bias

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HONG KONG'S school textbooks are to be revised after the colony reverts to Chinese rule next year to reflect Peking's view of history, according to a local publisher.

Taiwan, seen as a rebel province by China, will no longer be described as a "country", and references to the Opium War, when China lost Hong Kong to Britain, will be purged of "Western bias". Rodney Chui, the president of the Hong Kong Educational Publication Association, said. However, references to China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, particularly details of the death toll, which is disputed, would be left up to individual editors, he added.

"Sometimes it is difficult to separate politics and education," Mr Chui said. "The books are to be rewritten with a more pragmatic point of view." The term "pragmatic" is commonly used here to justify bowing to Chinese demands.

Mr Chui insisted, however, that editorial treatment of the Tiananmen Square crackdown would not be affected, although the subject is extremely sensitive here.

In June 1994, Dominic Wong, then Hong Kong's Director of Education, observed that because what Peking calls "the incident" had occurred within the past 20 years, it would be best not to mention it in textbooks.

Chris Patten, the Governor, immediately instructed education officials to reconsider the 20-year exclusion rule. Mr Wong claimed he had been misrepresented.

Yesterday Mr Patten said: "History is not going to suddenly change at midnight on June 30, 1997. What has happened has happened." Students had to "learn to distinguish the difference between truth and propaganda".

In a significant underlining of the importance to China of Taiwan and Hong Kong, Lu Ping, the director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, said yesterday that while much in the colony would remain the same after 1997, anyone who advocated the independence of Taiwan or Hong Kong "must really be a lunatic".

☐ **Escape attempt:** Hong Kong security forces fired teargas and threw more than 100 Vietnamese boatpeople into prison after what the Government called an attempted mass escape from one of its detention camps yesterday.

The clashes, which erupted at the High Island detention centre in the New Territories, triggered criticism from a pressure group, Refugee Concern Hong Kong, which condemned the authorities for having detained the refugees "arbitrarily and indefinitely". About 200 masked Vietnamese detainees tried to storm the camp fence before dawn. *(Reuter)*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh promises fair poll

Dhaka: Bangladesh mounted a huge security operation for today's parliamentary elections, the second in four months, and pledged voting would not be rigged.

February's election was won by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, but the poll was boycotted by major opposition parties. Under pressure, Begum Khaleda Zia, the BNP leader, resigned as Prime Minister on March 30. This time more than 80 political parties are taking part. *(Reuter)*

Pressure on Rao

Delhi: India's Supreme Court has upheld a ruling that the Central Bureau of Investigation speed up inquiries into claims that P. V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister, bribed MPs. *(AFP)*

Mafia arrest

Palermo: Giovanni Riina, 20, son of Salvatore Riina, the Mafia's jailed "boss of bosses", has been arrested on suspicion of Mafia membership and involvement in the murder of an alleged informer. *(Reuter)*

Burundi pull-out

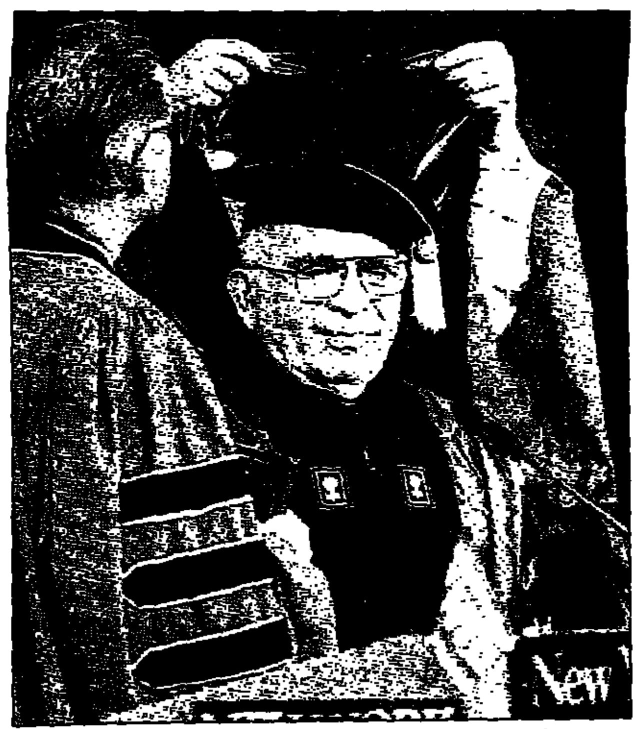
Geneva: The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had withdrawn the last of its aid workers from Burundi and suspended operations there after the murder last week of three staff. *(AFP)*

Iran executes spy

Tehran: Iran has executed a man for spying for Iraq during the 1980-88 war between the two countries, applying a law for the first time. Three others have been held, accused of espionage. *(AFP)*

Actress dies

New York: Jo Van Fleet, the actress, has died, aged 81. She worked in films, on stage and television, and won Academy and Tony awards. Among her roles was James Dean's mother in *East of Eden*. *(AP)*



King Husain of Jordan receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree at New York University yesterday. The award cited his dedication to democracy and peace

Netanyahu urged to widen buffer zone in Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE prospect of renewed heavy fighting in Lebanon increased yesterday as the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister-elect broke a self-imposed silence and vowed to "take care in our own way" of Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas when he forms a government, probably next week.

Binyamin Netanyahu spoke as the five latest victims of Hezbollah violence, killed in a south Lebanon ambush on Monday, were buried. Israeli army chiefs alleged the attack was in breach of the shaky ceasefire that halted their 17-day blitz on Hezbollah — Operation Grapes of Wrath — in late April.

According to Israel radio, Mr Netanyahu, elected on a "get tough with the Arabs" policy, is coming under strong pressure even from relative moderates in his Likud-led coalition to commit ground forces and push Israel's nine-mile-wide buffer zone farther north to the Litani river. "That would put Israel's northern border out of the range of [Hezbollah-fired] Katyusha rockets," the radio said.

A senior Israeli officer, in a separate radio interview, advocated the takeover of villages used by Hezbollah to launch attacks, even if they were north of the zone.

The pro-Netanyahu *Jerusalem Post* printed a strongly worded editorial urging action under the headline "The ceasefire is over".

The expected flare-up would pit Mr Netanyahu, an outspoken critic of the US-brokered ceasefire, not only against Beirut but also Syria, the military power in Lebanon, where it has 40,000 occupying troops. This would further dim prospects of a resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks, already threatened by Likud's refusal to surrender the Golan Heights, occupied since 1967.

Mr Netanyahu, trying to form a majority coalition in the 120-seat Knesset from the hardline religious and nationalist parties who triumphed in May's poll, has until July 20 to put a team forward for the necessary vote of confidence.

However, Likud aides say he hopes to do so on Monday, or soon after, when the new Knesset reconvenes.

Japan store in 'gangster' scandal

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

THE president of a top Japanese chain of department stores has resigned over a scandal involving payments to gangsters to prevent disruption at meetings of shareholders.

"I have made a decision to resign as president. As a manager, I feel a deep responsibility for this case," Hiroshi Hidaka, 72, said yesterday in Osaka, base of the Takashimaya chain and the country's oldest department store.

Police arrested one former and two present executives of the company on Saturday for allegedly paying 80 million yen (£523,000) to gangsters to prevent racketeers from embarrassing the company's management at its shareholders' meeting in May last year. The payments to gangsters are suspected to total 800 million yen over a ten-year period, according to widespread news reports.

Isao Nishiura, 67, said by police to be an Osaka gangster, has also been arrested in connection with the case along with an associate. Mr Nishiura is said to head the Gokurakukai crime syndicate.

Mr Hidaka confirmed that he had met Mr Nishiura. "I introduced myself to him, but we did not hold any specific discussions," he told a news conference yesterday.

His resignation came the same day as the Osaka prefecture suspended Takashimaya from local government tenders for a year. Takashimaya was suspended from Tokyo metropolitan government tenders for two months in April after allegations of bid rigging with other stores.

Japan's commercial code was tightened in 1982 to crack down on racketeers who buy a small parcel of shares in companies with the sole purpose of extorting money by threatening to disrupt shareholder meetings, known as *sokai*. But such racketeers, known as *sokaiya*, have survived as some big companies continue offering payments to maintain the peace.

In 1992, an auditor and two executives at the leading supermarket chain Ito-Yokado were charged with paying 27 million yen to *sokaiya*. The company's founder and owner, Masatoshi Ito, stepped down as president.

Takashimaya, established in 1919, is a prestigious chain of 18 department stores with sales totalling 886 billion yen in the business year to February. The company, which traces its roots to a Kyoto-based clothing retailer set up in 1831, has subsidiaries and affiliates in Australia, Britain, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States.

Australians drink a toast to elixir of life

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

DRINKERS in the land of the amber nectar were raising their glasses last night to a new study that claims beer has medicinal qualities.

Not only do men who drink beer live longer, but they are less likely to suffer heart problems, researchers at the University of Western Sydney found. The same applies to women beer drinkers, who were barred from most pubs here until two decades ago.

These conclusions emerged from a study of nearly 3,000 men and women over the age of 60 in the rural town of Dubbo in New South Wales.

This boost for one of Australia's most traditional pastimes coincided with a campaign to promote one of its less renowned virtues — its cuisine.

Long gone, according to the Australian Tourist Commission, are the days of cold pies and tough, over-cooked steak. Australia, the commission maintains, is among the world's most under-rated gourmet destinations.

Yesterday's launch of the campaign provided a taste of the fare a visitor can expect — a delicate mix of sushi rolls, fresh oysters and Fijian sweet and sour fish salad.

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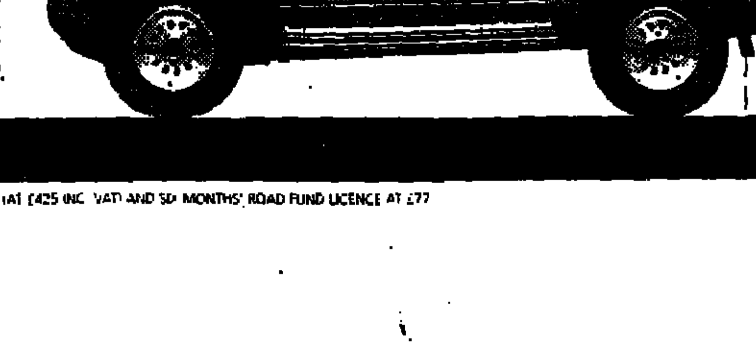

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STARTING TODAY: STYLE EDITOR GRACE BRADBERRY TAKES A REGULAR LOOK AT LATEST TRENDS

Bare-legged women are not to be taken seriously

The majority of the women who hold senior positions feel that to arrive at work bare-legged would indicate diminished responsibility. Until recently there would have been no question that they were right. Bare legs were considered slatternly, ungroomed and unhygienic. Privately, some men still feel this, and grimace as they mention the white stubbly legs they have seen in their offices.

There are also class distinctions at work. Bare legs are associated with the queues outside down-market nightclubs, the men in nothing but T-shirts, the women in short skirts, stilettos and no tights.

Those who dictate style and the chic women who follow their advice have decided that it is now okay to go bare-legged when the temperature hits 80.

But before stuffing crumpled 15 deniers into a suitcase it is worth bearing one simple point in mind: these women don't work in the same offices as you or I. Many of those whose pictures dominate the social diaries of glossy magazines don't work at all.

In the past, hosiery has undoubtedly denoted social status. Going without was "common". Or as Alison Lurie puts it succinctly in *The Language of Clothes*: "In any contemporary gathering, no matter what its occasion, the well-to-do can be observed to have on more clothes."

But just recently, the etiquette code has been eroded. "The tights rule is just not applicable any more," says Ms Armstrong categorically. "Not even at Ascot. Women with really good legs can look smart without tights."

Her case is backed up by the Princess of Wales, who abandoned tights at Ascot when the combination of heat and pregnancy became too much.

But as more and more "well-bred" women dispense with tights, a new hierarchy is developing. It is the quality of the skin, enhanced by professional waxing and fake tans, that marks out the haves from the have-nots. High-maintenance women have another arena in which to compete.

"Whether you wear tights or not all depends on your legs, not your status," confirms Ms Armstrong. "Mottled flesh and obvious veins would look unsightly. But then most women are so self-critical that they wouldn't bare their legs in that condition anyway."

Yet this iconoclasm remains an irrelevance to the world of working women. When you talk to successful businesswomen, it becomes clear that they always wear tights.

"I've never asked myself the question," says Yve Newbold, former company secretary of the Hanson Group, and now chief executive of a City headhunting firm. "The answer is that if you want to be taken seriously, then I'm sorry, but you have to dress seriously. That means wearing tights. People do notice bare legs, just as they would notice a man wearing shorts."

If you want to be on the "playing field", as she puts it, you have to follow the rules.

There is another dimension. A colleague recalls a line in a secretarial manual which read "bare legs mean sex". This might be going a bit far. Poor legs become an admission of weakness.

"Perhaps if my legs were tanned it might be different," muses Sue Ellen, managing director of United Racecourses. "But I think people would notice if I went to a board meeting without tights, and they probably wouldn't like it."

Princess of Wales: bare legs

Even radical women cannot shake off the constraints. "I had exactly this dilemma with myself when I left the house this morning," admits Tessa Jowell, Labour MP for Dulwich and Shadow Minister for Women. "In the end I put my tights on. I don't think people at the House would notice — my legs are not that riveting — but it's like wearing make-up. I wouldn't feel properly dressed without."

The dilemma crosses the political divide. "I had to attend a big dinner last night and I so nearly didn't wear tights," says Caroline Waldegrave. "But at the last minute I changed my mind, even though I was wearing a long dress."

Even in the arts world the rule persists, though it is more imaginatively interpreted. "If you look around our office you'll find that most women either wear trousers or long dresses that don't require tights," says Mel Kenyon, a theatrical agent with Casarotto Ramsay.

Ultimately, shedding tights, like burning bras, is not quite the act of liberation it might seem. Women who abandoned underwiring found the gravitational pull of their breasts open to scrutiny. Those who choose to go bare-legged will find themselves competing for a place in a hierarchy dominated by women with more time and money. How much better to maintain an image of high-mindedness, and side-step the beauty contest altogether, restricting the viewing of bare legs to family and friends. Purdah brings a kind of freedom.

ADVERTISING ARCHIVES

Successful businesswomen always wear tights and not to do so indicates a diminished responsibility

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TINTED moisturisers were once the poor relation of foundation, providing sparse, streaky coverage that faded quickly. But thanks to more sophisticated gelling agents they are now a real alternative. Make-up artists have picked up on this. On the catwalks this season, Gucci and John Rocha models wore moisturisers rather than foundation, for a smooth, luminous finish. Here we select six of the best. All the products contain SPFs, which help protect the skin against the ultraviolet rays in sunlight.

Check it out

TINTED MOISTURISERS

- **MAC EP-T** Tinted Moisturiser, £12.50. Gave light, even cover and smoothed out imperfections. Lasted well but wasn't particularly moisturising. Score: 7
- **CLARINS** Revitalising Tinted Moisuriser, £15.50. Contains an "anti-pollution complex". Creamy, with a light finish. Looked natural but needed reapplication by late afternoon. Score: 8
- **LANCOME** Imanence Mat, £17.50. A new matte version of an existing product, it gave a duller finish than many of the others — a boon in the midday sun. Score: 8.
- **ESTEE LAUDER** Perfect Climate Sportwear Tint, £17. Claims to neutralise 90 per cent of all free radicals — impossible to test but the results were certainly good. Score: 9
- **VICHY** Lumineuse Tinted Moisturiser, £8.25. Comes in two skin types, and claims to enrich the skin. Gave a luminous finish but felt slightly greasy. Score: 6
- **COLOURINGS** Tinted Moisturiser, £3.75. Excellent value, though the finish was not as smooth as others. It had the highest sun protection factor. Score: 6

Tints add a hint of colour

Essence of the fashionable East

DO YOU ever feel that you miss out on the flavour of the year? Were you the last on your block to wise up to wasabi? Did sun-dried tomatoes slip your notice at their zenith? Did pesto pass you by? Did arugula rocket into fashion without so much as a by-your-leave? Well, it needn't happen in 1996. Grab yourself a bunch of fresh coriander, and get in with the in-crowd.

A stock ingredient of Thai and Malaysian cooking for centuries, the burgeoning desirability of these cuisines and their influence on Western chefs is seeing coriander explode onto our plates and palates, with its characteristic cool, flowery zing.

At Mezzo, the trendiest of Terence Conran's restaurants, John Torode, the chef, is in raptures. "Coriander may have been around for a long time," he says, "but this is the first time it has been used as a salad leaf. We serve it with Thai shallots and garlic chicken. What most people don't realise is that one of the main flavours comes from the root. Ideally, you should put the root in curry sauces, then use the leaves as a garnish."

Similar endorsement comes from Coast, the newest Mayfair hang-out of the gastronomic glitterati. "We use it extensively in dishes such as our duck-based Thai broth and our lobster jelly," says the sous-chef, Elliot Ketley. "In both cases the chopped root is included to infuse its scent and then removed. The leaves are added at the last moment to give colour and flavour. It is certainly making appearances in salads, and I suppose its popularity in the shops and in home cooking is coming about because of the influence of restaurants like Coast."

Check it out

GROOVY FOOD: CORIANDER

Sales of coriander at Marks & Spencer have doubled in the last year, particularly in the fashion-conscious South East. A packet of the leaves costs 65p, and a plant in the pot 79p, which, considering how easy it is to grow, is a culinary bargain. Dishes such as smothered lamb with coriander and saffron are the teetering pinnacle of cutting-edge cookery.

According to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau, coriander has become as popular as parsley, and as it is a labour-intensive crop that has to be picked by hand, it has that cachet of the pampered plant that is so crucial to the jaded foodie.

GILES COREN

Show-stealer Stella is still on song

Check it out

PEOPLE: STELLA McCARTNEY

WHATEVER happened to Stella McCartney, 24, daughter of Paul and Linda, and the woman who looked set to be a star of the fashion world after her graduation show last year?

To the irritation of other students at Central St Martin's School of Art, Ms McCartney persuaded her friends Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss to forgo their $10,000-a-day fees.

Pictures of the so-called supermodels in her classically tailored collection made the pages of most of the national newspapers, and Ms McCartney was inundated with offers to buy her clothes.

"I didn't get back to people as I should have done," she admits. "But I was shell-shocked by the whole thing."

A year on, she has set up on her own, and has run off several hundred garments for a Japanese company. Her next commission is to design a collection for Thailand. "Kate Moss has modelled some of my new designs," she says. "It was a case of me saying, 'come on Kate, slip this on'. I don't know what I'm going to do with the pictures yet."

While other students chose to go in-house with major designers, she had feelings of "been there, done that". "I worked for Christian Lacroix when I was 15," she says. "And after A levels I worked for Betty Jackson."

As a teenager she met Yves Saint Laurent, backstage at one of his Paris fashion shows. "I ought to go Paris and New York and show my work there. But I'm really very English," she says.

MASOUD GOLSORKHI

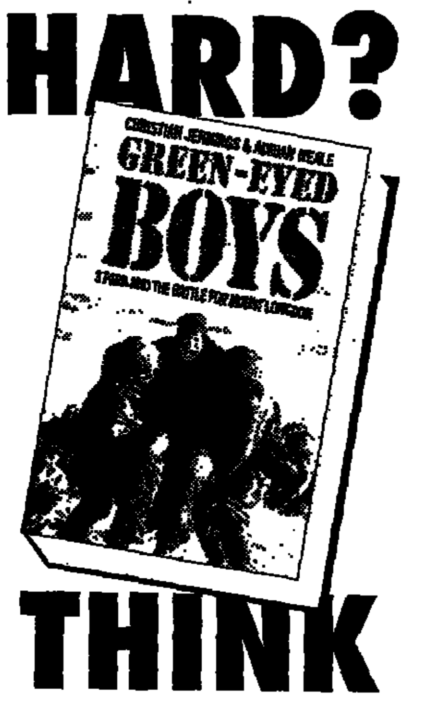
One of Stella McCartney's recent creations

SO YOU THINK YOU'RE HARD?

THINK AGAIN.

3 PARA AND THE BATTLE FOR MOUNT LONGDON

HarperCollinsPublishers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The moaning male

It is time men stopped being quite so neurotic about how they have lost out in the feminist revolution

ATTARD

Magazines are full of tales of man's unhappiness, his dismal lot: they believe that women have it all, but that it is men who are paying the price

FOR A woman to feel preoccupied about her looks is — *you'd be forgiven for thinking* — to be expected. But *for* a man to worry about his appearance, well, it's a tragedy.

According to a survey in a men's magazine, an increasing number of men are unhappy about their "body image" in general and insecure about their lack of hair, muscle or *sex appeal in particular*. These findings have led to much shaking of the collective male head. Things, you see, have *come to a pretty pass: man's* confidence, on which rests his very masculinity, is at its lowest ebb yet. Civilisation as we know it is threatened.

Every other week now comes information that apparently *signals man's unhappy* demise, his fragile state, his dismal lot: women may have it *all these days*, but *it is* men who are paying the price; and they are left with a whole lot of nothing.

The silliness *of such claims* is so obvious, but it hasn't stopped otherwise fairly lucid commentators from making them. It is routine now to hear men described — and what's more, unembarrassedly — as *an endangered species*, fatally wounded in the feminist battle for equality. Jack Nicholson, an iconic male if ever there was one, goes as far as informing the current edition of *The Sainsbury's Magazine* that "in many ways, the world's leading minority right now is the white male". It is a theory many men have taken up with alacrity.

I have, by my side as I write, a copy of the deliciously febrile *Male View* magazine which takes the paranoid view of sexual politics to new heights. I would describe it as hysteri*cal only it would not be* etymologically correct. But then, testosterone-fuelled alarm is always so much more reasonable, don't you find?

It is a bit unfair to pick on this magazine, since it is so *obviously* the sounding board of the embittered tendency. There are real grievances here — *men who have lost contact* with their children after divorce and so forth — but they are aired as general com*plaints about* the lot of man, oppressed, to quote the breathtakingly lippy American radio commentator, Rush Limbaugh, by totalitarian feminazi regimes.

More respectably, this aggrieved *stance could* be described as the Neil Lyndon view: that feminism has done *unutterable damage to men* and not helped women, that we keep quiet about men's unhappinesses while making *political capital out of women's*. It is not a view, on the whole, that I share. I don't, for *example, believe that men are* as often beaten up by women as women are by men and the only difference is that women *moan to their doctors but that* men bravely bear their wounds in silence.

I think that women have had, and do often still have, legitimate grounds *for complaint. One must* acknowledge historical patterns, historical truths. But at *the same time, one must* be as honest in noting that some things at some times are considered more acceptable than others. It is now thought to be perfectly OK to badmouth men, to itemise their *failings*, to *undermine* their identity, but equal freedom in discussing women is not granted.

I'm not sure I'd see that so much as a dangerous sign of the "pendulum swinging too *far in the opposite direction*" (as the alarm goes) but the normally clumsy way things have *of shaking down*. I don't *say it isn't often regrettable*, but I think it is time we stopped being quite so anxious about the welfare of the white male in society.

What has really happened is that everyone now whinges a *lot more. Times are hard for* men, they're hard for women. This is life, not a programmatic gender-sensitive course of destruction. We are too quick to want to see things in this way. I don't know in whose *interest it is to depict things in* term of men's losing, women's winning — or the other way around. But this constant pitting of the one sex against the other is surely, in real terms, antipathetic to the way in *which we live, which* is together.

Having said that, of course *it is true that men's lives have* been enormously changed by the very real change in women's lives and expectations. How could it be otherwise? I am someone who feels deeply unnerved by change, so I *sympathise with male anxiety* here, but just because change is frightening doesn't mean it isn't necessary.

Yes, perhaps it is true that men are less confident than they were, that they feel questioned more and question themselves more — but is this necessarily a bad thing? Who *says the position of men* should be safeguarded, or that their confidence should go unchallenged?

Nigella Lawson

The real problem, yet again, though, is a fashionable rather *than a sexual one. I remember* reading a rather good article some time ago about why a *number of British teenagers* were choosing to go to university in America. The great thing about American education, said one such student, was that it taught you to be confident, not to question *yourself, but to feel sure of what you were and what you* were about. That seems to me to be precisely what education *shouldn't* be about: learning is about questioning ourselves and others and realising that we cannot be sure, except, *increasingly, of what we do* not know.

I think much the same of the much-vaunted, now-threatened male confidence. It might be lovely to have it, but is it a sign, really, of strength? I don't *say it is good that men now* fret about their looks as much as women, although in the *first instance it must* be remembered that this is a self-selective survey — the sort of men who buy a magazine called *Men's Health* are going to be the type to worry — and in the second, the findings do *anyway seem pretty unsurprising*. Many men are overweight, going bald, hardly Adonises: a degree of *modest* dissatisfaction with the fact might, rather, be as it should be.

But *it is preposterous* to argue that men have reached crisis point, or that masculin*ity is endangered. Rather than* feeling threatened, say, by women's presence in the workplace, many men feel profoundly relieved that they do not have to be their family's sole support.

What might have been easi*er about the traditional set-up* was that everyone's roles were more sharply delineated, but that doesn't mean that that *the roles themselves* were anxiety-free. The pressures on men — to be strong, to provide, to *protect* and to do all these things without flinching or complaining — were enormous.

What is more, failure was inevita*ble and I'm not* sure it always helped men that women tried, *in turn, to protect men from* that. I don't think it would be going too far to say that these expectations of men made both men and women unhappy. Men felt inadequate and women felt let down.

Perhaps it is indeed harder for men if they feel they can no longer take their position for granted: *they can no longer* be prized simply for being men. But what is so wrong in that? It's not the same as saying that masculinity itself should be disparaged.

To question is not to annihilate. *Both feminism and back*lash-masculinism should stop seeing unexamined confidence as the highest good. We are male or female because that's what we are: in neither case should we expect to be congratulated on it.

So who really needs a masterclass?

Learning with a famous writer does work, says **Tania Kindersley**

At the *beginning* of May, my publisher called and said that the director of the Hay Festival *in Herefordshire* wondered if I would like to take part in a masterclass with Peter Carey. It was billed as "a *masterclass* for young writers recovering from or preparing for the *rigours of publishing*". I loved that "wondered". It's like saying: "We wondered *if you would like to win the* lottery."

I had only a vague notion of *listening at the feet of a* master but on Monday morning Peter started with: "Work in progress: *what have you brought?*" Panic — I had nothing. Luckily, the others were equally ill-*prepared*, and *after an* intensive period of typing and printing and faxing, we assembled some material.

There were five of us in the group: Tobias Hill, Jean McNeil, Alison Lowe, Emily Perkins and me — only one of us *unpublished*. We gathered in a small hotel, shaking with nerves. Reading a work in progress is like walking naked through a public thoroughfare. We read each piece, made notes, then discussed *them*. Peter *suggested* we look for anything that wasn't clear. Then it was my turn. I don't mind admitting I was frightened. But our group was supportive: praise first, questions *and criticism* after. "What if?" was Peter's big question. What if you changed *the order of a sentence, cut* a section, removed one word. Over and over, he would encourage.

> 'What work have you brought?' Carey asked us

We found we had a shared terror of stating the obvious. "Sometimes," said Peter, "*you just have to* say the thing." Now it makes me laugh yet it was one of *the most potent points* he made. But if someone says: "Oh, you did a class with Peter Carey: what did he teach you?" and you say: "Well, he told us that sometimes we just need to *say the thing*," *they might* wonder.

Can writing be taught? I must have read every book ever written about the art of fiction, but I learnt more in those five days. Perhaps it's *theory versus practice*. Peter made us think about the release of information, the thematic lines of ten*sion, the way the physical* world affects character and action. He made us keenly aware of what we were trying *to achieve, of making* our characters work for us, of how to find the heart of *our story*.

He is fascinated by the physical world — how *things look and smell and* feel, the way people move, what their faces reveal, how they use their bodies. "Go right into the moment," he said. "See it." I *had never really thought* of *writing* as a visual art, but he made me see that it is.

We broke at five on the *second day, ready to* rewrite. In true literary tradition, we decided to put off until tomorrow what we could do today, and *repaired* to the refreshment tent to drink and chat and lis*ten to a reading*.

On the third day we wrote, *and on the last* two days we read the new work. The results were astonishing. All our pieces had altered dramatically. There was a sense of growing excitement as we saw how the pieces had *changed. By the end*, we were exhilarated.

On Friday evening we *went to hear him read from* his own work in progress. Robert McCrum, his editor, other publishing *people* and Salman Rushdie were there. The reading was extraordinary; every*thing Peter had offered us* was there in his work.

After the reading, the photographers were going nuts, trying to get pictures of Peter and McCrum and Rushdie together. Our little *group moved diffidently to*wards the main action, when Peter suddenly *looked away from the* crowd around him. "Where are my students?" he said. He turned, saw us and took *his manuscript* out of its buff envelope and gave it to us. There are certain mo*ments you always carry* with you. For me, that was one of them.

● *Tania Kindersley's third novel*, Goodbye, Johnny Thunders, *was published by Hodder & Stoughton in May.*

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Alan Coren

■ After all these years in journalism, what have I got to show for myself?

You will have read — since that is precisely what you were intended to do — that next month's *Cosmopolitan* will feature photographs of nude men. Mature nude men. You will also have read that Mandi (*sic*) Norwood, the magazine's editor, invited the Prime Minister to take part in this enterprise, but that John Major sensibly decided that his part should not be taken anywhere near it.

Is there anything remotely interesting in all this? Yes, there are two things. I shall grapple with the remoter later, but the first is Mandi's reason for doing it: which is that it is "an attempt to update the publication for a younger readership". This strikes me as immensely interesting, since *Cosmopolitan* is not some shoestring, whim-driven attic outfit where two men and a dog suck pencils until one of them comes up with an editorial idea, it is owned by the Hearst Corporation, which annually spends a Kane's ransom on rocket salad and Chablis so that serious thinkers in sharp suits may convene around shiny rosewood tables, on both sides of the Atlantic, to thrash out every last scintilla of marketing policy.

And these, we ask, were the people who came to the conclusion that the only editorial feature guaranteed to bring the nation's youth hurtling into newsagents was snapshots of naked middle-aged men? How very odd. You and I would have thought, would we not, that this was the one sector of the market where there was no curiosity left to be satisfied, given that it is, these days, immersed in nudity of every kind — not merely in film and television and video and tabloid and magazine and poster, but also in life itself, where, as I understand it, the nation's youth spends most of its time with its kit off.

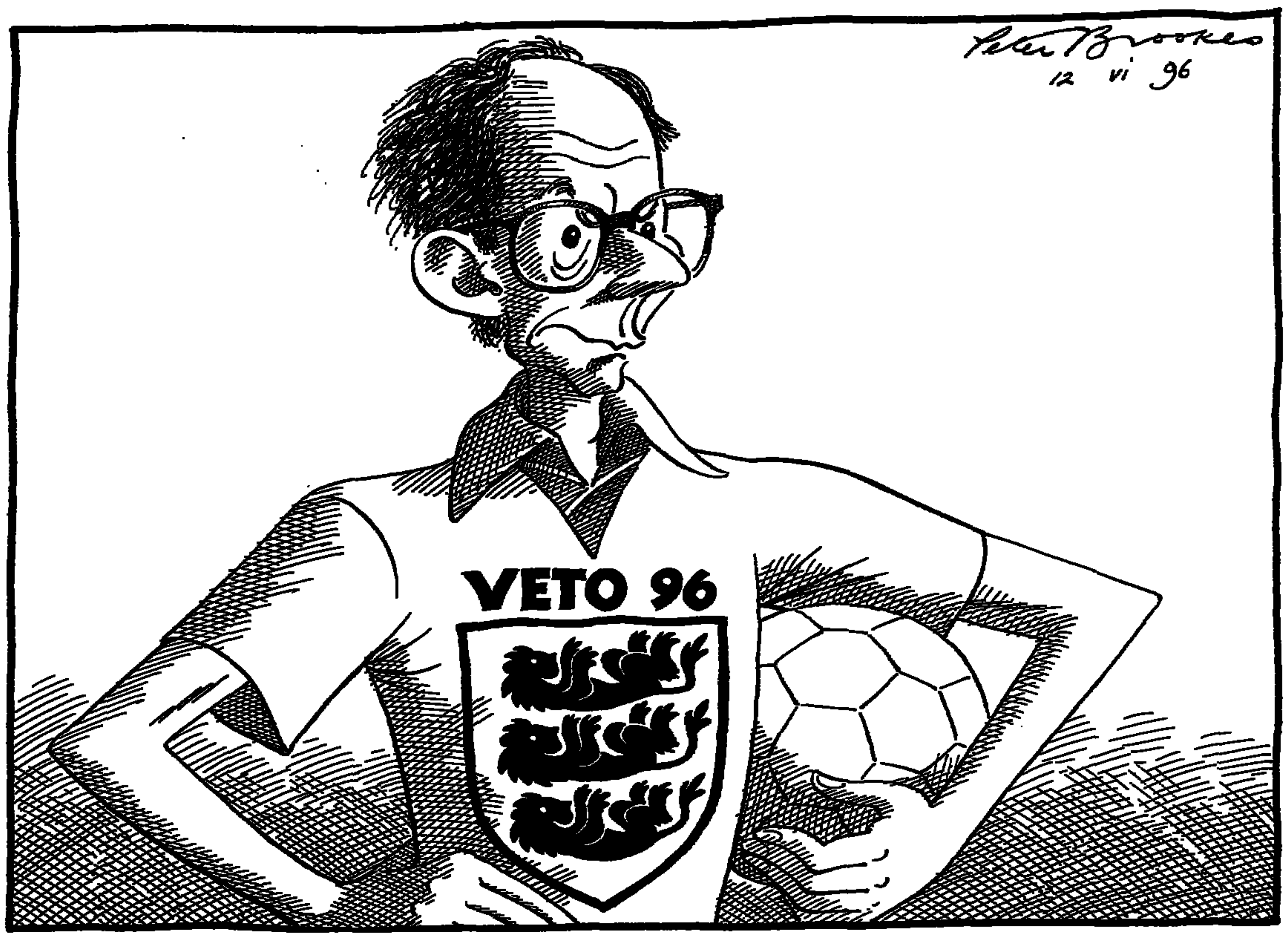
And, in each of these circumstances, is almost certainly looking at something rather more stimulating, if our great leader will forgive me, than a 53-year-old man from Huntingdonshire, clad only in his socks.

We must now pause, you and I, because we have both reached that dimensional point in this column where, if the head at the top were not decorously collared but stark naked, you might now be imagining what you would be staring at if words weren't there instead. Unsettling, isn't it? But not half as unsettling as it is for me. Because we have also reached the remoter interesting thing about Mandi's landmark project, which is its implication for everyone who toils in the media vineyard, viz, how long will it be before all of us are required to tread the grapes with our trousers off? For *Cosmopolitan* is not alone in wanting to attract a younger readership — as the twig vibrates ceaselessly with the constant dropping of the older readership, every publication wants to attract a younger readership. So if Mandi's scheme reaps the fat rewards its marketwise researchers evidently anticipate, how far off can that day be when the Editor of *The Times* calls me into his office, gazes uncomfortably out over Wapping to avoid my eyes, clears his throat a couple of times, and finally asks how I would feel about, er? Tastefully, of course. Nicely lit. Not lying on a candlewick bedspread with a Persian kitten and a white telephone, nothing like that.

And how, no less important, should I reply? Mortgages have to be repaid, insurance premiums kept up, shoes cobbled, road fund discs gummed on, papers delivered, cabs hailed, drains rodded out.

Indeed, how would *you* reply? For never forget that prurience is a currency — ask the Duchess of York, ask James Hewitt, ask Max Clifford — and even the meekest of us carries at least a few small coins about his person; so if the young really do pant for a glimpse of this or that, and especially the other, where is the bottom line, as it were, to be drawn? Suppose you're a middle-aged man and you've just had a VAT visit, nice young woman, worked out there was a shortfall of £387.40, but if you cared to come across with a couple of cheeky 10x8 glossies she'd call it quits, what would you do? Trickier yet, should the young chap servicing your Rover declare that the transmission was a bit iffy, we could be looking at five large ones here, squire, unless of course . . .

All in all, a bit of a midlife crisis, really.



Keep the question simple

The people's attitude to the European Union is full of contradictions — but governments must keep asking

Simon Jenkins

The answer depends on the question. That is the curse of answers. The oracle at Dodona spoke in the gurgling water that flowed through the roots of the sacred oak. The oracle at Delphi spoke in the ecstatic shrieks of the Pythian priestess. The oracle of Faunus interpreted a supplicant's dreams after making him sleep in the skin of a newly slain sheep. The acolytes translated these mystic notions for a fee, and with careful ambiguity. When asked the outcome of war between Athens and Persia, Delphi predicted only that "a great army will be destroyed".

The question that William Cash, MP, wants to refer to the British people would shrivel the sacred oak and silence the Pythian virgin. "Do you want the United Kingdom to propose and insist on irreversible changes in the Treaty on European Union, so that the UK retains its powers of government and is not part of a federal Europe nor part of a European monetary union, including a single currency?"

John Redwood and Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party have as yet been unable to formulate a question. *The Times* recently came to their aid with "Do you support a Europe of nation states or a European superstate?", or else "Who should run Britain: Westminster or Brussels?" They might make it easier for themselves and try "Do you want live free and brave under the Union Jack or be enslaved to a dastardly foreign power?" That is the curse of referendums. When you have already decided the answer, it is tough having to write the question.

There is only one question about Europe that merits being put to the British people. It should have been put after Maastricht and every subsequent renegotiation. The question is, "Should *Britain accept the terms of the new* European Union treaty?" This meets the customary criteria for referendums. It is short and simple. The issue is the clear-cut acceptance or rejection of a document. The question is not vulnerable to "It all depends what you mean by . . ." The subject is of constitutional moment and the parties in Parliament are divided on it.

The referendum lobbyists do not want this question. The reason is that it cannot ensure the answer they want, which is No. A similar question was asked by Harold Wilson in his 1975 referendum, and 67 per cent voted for the renegotiated Treaty of Rome. Only the Hebrides and Shetland Islands voted against. On the evidence of the opinion polls, the same result would obtain today. The referendum lobby has therefore to think of questions that are either loaded or bafflingly complex.

According to MORI and Gallup polls taken in the past month, a majority of the public would vote to stay "in Europe". That majority may have shrunk since the start of the decade, but it remains clear. Only when the pollsters ask complicated questions does the picture become confused. Gallup found 43 per cent of those expressing an opinion were in favour of "coming out of Europe" *(against 57 per cent for* staying in). Yet when asked separately if they were in favour of "a complete British withdrawal", only 19 per cent said yes. This was despite 34 per cent who thought British membership was a bad thing. An NOP poll showed 25 per cent for British withdrawal.

MORI also found a majority for staying in. But it went on to unearth bizarre conflicts of opinion. There were majorities against a single currency, in favour of a common legal system, against more power for the European Parliament, in favour of common taxes across Europe, against a single foreign *policy and in favour of new East* European members.

As usual the devil was in the wording. When Gallup asked respondents if they wanted "a fully-integrated Europe with all major decisions taken by a European government", only 11 per cent said yes. When it rephrased the question as "a more federal Europe with eventually a central European government", the proportion in favour doubled to 22 per cent. MORI found 60 per cent opposing any further transfer of power from Parliament to Europe, but Gallup found 67 per cent favoured Britain signing the social chapter. The reason was surely Gallup's description, that the chapter would "guarantee workers' rights . . . and encourage worker participation". Mr Cash would doubtless have substituted "raise costs across Britain and lose millions of jobs".

The message I would take from these polls is that the British public still supports the European adventure. It does not want a precipitate withdrawal and would punish any party that dallied with that option. Evidence for this is that 37 per cent of Gallup's sample identified with Labour's policy, while only 18 per cent identified with the Government's more sceptical line. The public is not enthusiastic for any new treaty constraints on *Britain's independence*. It hates the common agricultural and fisheries policies and wants no truck with a common currency. MORI finds substantial swings over the past three years towards rejoining the exchange-rate mechanism, and Gallup finds a swing towards signing the social chapter. Yet both polls show a steady narrowing of the gap between opposition to and support for the European Union as such.

This is clear as mud. What the public appears to want is for Britain to be in Europe but bad-*tempered. It wants the benefits* of communality — no passports, free trade, workers' rights — without such disbenefits as foreign immigrants, a single currency or a diminution of parliamentary sovereignty. It dislikes what it can see of Europe, but still prefers the Brussels Devil to the deep blue sea. Ministers are thus expected to stand no nonsense and fight for Britain. They should batter Brussels to the limit of endurance, but then back off.

For any government, the trick is to know how far to go in pandering to such tabloid politics. Mr Major's position on ratifying European treaties has always been shambolic. The Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, said throughout the Maastricht process that British negotiators were "subject to the will of Parliament". A referendum, said Mr Major, was "not the British way". He even suggested that the public had been consulted at the 1992 general election, despite the three big parties all having been in favour of Maastricht ratification. Yet far from deferring to the will of Parliament, Mr Major and Mr Hurd drove the treaty through the Commons on a three-line whip. Even Wilson did not do this, winning his 1975 renegotiation on a free Commons vote, despite splitting his party down the middle.

I am in favour of a referendum because I believe the public, not just its representatives, is entitled to an opinion on a treaty so important to its identity and prosperity as those periodically emanating from the European Union. But the public deserves a simple question. Sir James Goldsmith's eruption into British politics is colourful. His money dazzles impressionable journalists and frightens paranoid Tory managers. But he will prove electorally no more potent than the Maharishi's Natural Law Party (which also fielded over 300 candidates at the last election). And he pollutes the case for a referendum by harnessing it to a cause whose partiality demands such daft questions as yesterday's from Mr Cash. This confuses the medium with the message.

Mr Major has wobbled and wavered over a referendum, apparently desperate to please all sides. He has pleased none. After facing down opposition from his colleague Kenneth Clarke, Mr Major's final compromise, for a referendum only on joining a single currency and only after Cabinet and Parliament have agreed to join, seems designed to prejudice the outcome. He has changed *his position since Maastricht, but been* unable to effect a deft U-turn because of his vulnerability to the Europhiles.

Mr Cash is right to press for a referendum on more than just a single currency, but wrong to load the question or fix the timing to get the rejection he wants. His antics would get short shrift from the priestess at Delphi. "If you proceed in this way, a great party will be destroyed." When asked about his tactics on radio yesterday, Mr Cash tried to claim that the party threatened by them was Labour. That is what happens to a man who trifles with the Pythian ecstasies.

Why the Czechs are different

Prague's past is still potent, says

Mark Frankland

The Czech Republic's claim to be the most politically predictable country in the former Soviet bloc has been shaken by last month's inconclusive election. The Prime Minister, *Vaclav Klaus, who narrowly failed to* win the majority he expected for his three-party conservative coalition, found himself at the mercy of his old rival, President Vaclav Havel. The President waited until last Thursday before asking Klaus to form a minority Government.

Klaus and Havel may be the most successful democratic politicians to have emerged from Eastern Europe's anti-Communist revolutions, but they have never hit it off. Klaus is a self-confident economist, mastermind of an unprecedentedly smooth transition from a planned to a market economy. Havel is a writer who suffered under Communism, the champion of a moral, rather than a money-making, society. The two men, though, do have one thing in common: reason to be grateful to the Czech Communists against whom they both fought in 1989.

The Communists have been absent from the negotiations over the new Government, because with only 10 per cent of the popular vote they are minor players in the Czech political game. When reformist governments in Poland and Hungary faltered, the former Communists moved back into power. Havel and Klaus have the luxury of knowing that whatever happens to the new Government, their own Communists will not emerge as eventual winners.

The reason lies in the curious nature of the party that was jeered out of power by the Prague crowds at the end of 1989. Even by the standards of a Soviet bloc in decay, it was a wretched organisation, scared of the rather passive people it ruled over and unable to change course, even to survive. Polish and Hungarian Communists were much quicker on their feet in 1989, and thereby prepared the way for their return to government today. The Czech Communists' mistake was to be tempted by reform 20 years too soon. The 1968 Prague Spring's slogan of "socialism with a human face" would have done nicely in 1989. It would not have kept the Communists in power, but it could have provided them with credentials for becoming the democratic left-wing party that their Hungarian and Polish counterparts now claim to be.

The tens of thousands of Czech Communists purged from the party when the hardliners re-established themselves after 1968 included everyone capable of seeing that the system needed radical change. Among them was Milos Zeman, now leader of the Social Democrats. They were the unexpectedly strong runners-up in the elections, and are well placed to put pressure on Klaus's minority Government.

Unlike the Hungarian Prime Minister, Gyula Horn, or the Polish President, Alexander Kwasniewski, Zeman leads a party that was not created by demoralised Communists prepared to do anything to save their skins. The history of Czech Social Democracy goes back more than a century, and the present party was revived after 1989 by former party members who remembered the pre-war Czech democracy.

Another favour that the Czech Communist party did Klaus and Havel was to destroy its patriotic credentials. After the collapse of the Prague Spring, hardline Communists calculated that survival depended on mimicking the sclerotic Soviet leadership. Even if they had understood the damage their policies were causing, there was nothing they could do about it. If we deviate from the Soviet line and liberalise, a Politburo member is supposed to have said, "the people will string us up".

Hungary's Communists were too nimble to fall into this trap, for many shared the gloomy Hungarian obsession with the survival of their race. This was tellingly revealed in the way they made known their fears for the large Hungarian minority in Romania. Ethnic problems of this kind were never publicly admitted, so foreign visitors to Budapest were discreetly steered towards the writer Gyula Illyes, who, with charm and authority, would describe the Ceausescu regime's mistreatment of the Transylvanian Hungarians. And it was tribal panic that pushed Hungarian Communists into reforms that led to their losing power. If Hungary's decline was not stopped, they cautioned, the country would sink to the status of a quaint ethnic island with an exotic language — an intolerable prospect for a people who never forget they were once co-rulers of the Habsburg Empire.

In 1989, shrewd Polish Communists, President Kwasniewski among them, worked with the Opposition to bring their country safely out of the Soviet orbit. Had the Communists not behaved as patriots, they wouldn't be back in power today, seeking to join Nato and the EU.

The Czech past has given Klaus and Havel another advantage. In contrast to Hungary and Poland, Czechoslovakia's pre-war democracy worked. It was also a more egalitarian society, with strong peasant farmers and a skilled working class. Klaus showed his political skill by not directly attacking this tradition, of which Havel is the modern representative. Klaus kept rents and energy prices low, and held back from closing all loss-making factories: unemployment is only 2.8 per cent. Klaus has also carried out Eastern Europe's most egalitarian privatisations. Without such prudence, inspired by the past, the Social Democrats would have done even better in the elections — but not the Communists.

Black book

MEMO TO Conservative ministers regarding the party conference in Brighton: "Duck!" Max Clifford, publicist and self-publicist, has teamed up with Sara Keays, the former friend of Cecil Parkinson, to help to launch her novel at the conference in October.

Her publisher, Doubleday, has already met Mr Clifford — whose coups include the story of David Mellor making love in a Chelsea football strip, Freddie Star eating a hamster and O.J. Simpson's appearance at the Oxford Union. "We are in discussions at the moment," says the publisher. "He is interested and so are we."

The novel, called *The Black Book*, is based on the whips' secret record of MPs' private lives. It is likely to coincide with the launch of a frank confessional work by Steven Norris, Minister for Transport and mistresses, as well as a literary *tour de force* by the defecting Tory, Emma Nicholson.

"The Tory party needs publicity at the time of the party conference," says Clifford. "I like to think I'll be helping them."

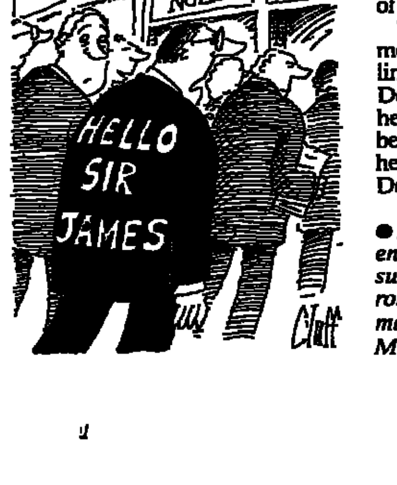
● *Chaotic scenes in Lord North Street as the Tory Right assembled at Jonathan Aitken's house to offer their obeisances to Sir James Goldsmith, entrepreneur. In the mêlée, the journalist Sir Peregrine Worsthorne began to drive up the street the wrong way. As the assembled hacks, photographers and guests flailed at him to turn away, he waved them off thinking they were merely his hysterical fans.*

China doll

THE HOTTEST new star on London's canapé circuit is Deng Lin, 53, the daughter of Deng Xiaoping. A bohemian type and an accomplished artist, she is in Britain to promote new Chinese art.

Last night the Peking heartbreaker attended a modish party in South Kensington, where 20 single women, like true Communists, drank champagne and munched tortilla chips in the company of 20 single men.

"It was a party to celebrate summer and being single," says Caroline Blunden, who has known Deng Lin since studying art with her in Peking. "I thought it would be more effective than a lonely hearts advertisement, and I knew Deng Lin would enjoy it."



THE TIMES DIARY

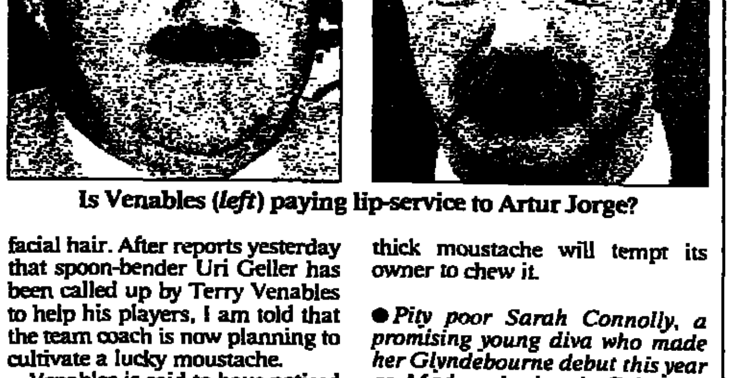
● *Every precaution has been taken at Buckingham Palace to ensure that President Mandela's routine isn't disrupted when he makes his state visit next month. Mandela is not a man for all-night cigar-chomping, so dinners have been brought forward to ensure he gets his sleep. "All evening functions will be over by 10pm, which is about an hour earlier than usual," explains a source. "He's up at the crack of dawn. I suppose it's the prison routine."*

Noises off

AS the Royal Opera House held its breath last night to see if Roberto Alagna's hay-fever would allow him to take to the stage in *Don Carlos*, more trouble was simmering backstage. News reaches me, *sotto voce*, that Clive Timms, the finance director who arrived at Covent Garden from ITN and has presided over a wave of redundancies, is himself now unhappy in his work.

He is said to have missed at least one crucial board meeting to discuss the House's finances, earning considerable criticism from other big noises. There is even talk of an acrimonious departure. "A storm in a teacup," says the House. "He is back at work looking perfectly happy."

Touché tache



Is Venables (*left*) paying lip-service to Artur Jorge?

WHATEVER the results for England on the field during Euro 96, the winner on the bench may be facial hair. After reports yesterday that spoon-bender Uri Geller has been called up by Terry Venables to help his players, I am told that the team coach is now planning to cultivate a lucky moustache.

Venables is said to have noticed the authority with which Artur Jorge, the Swiss manager, directs his players from behind a magnificent black thatch, thicker than a hula dancer's skirt. The Dutch and Portuguese coaches, Guus Hiddink and Antonio Oliveira, also sport the dead hamster look.

Some advice, however, comes from Daniel Rouah, keeper of some of the capital's most luxuriant facial furniture: keep it thin. A thick moustache will tempt its owner to chew it.

● *Pity poor Sarah Connolly, a promising young diva who made her Glyndebourne debut this year as Madam Larina in Tchaikovsky's* Eugene Onegin. *She missed her second performance on Monday evening, after putting the wrong date in her diary. The show was delayed more than an hour as an understudy was found, but the opera house was forgiving: "I'm sure it won't affect her career," said a Sussex softie.*

P·H·S

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ECHOES OF MAASTRICHT

A loud cry of referendum from the Commons

In his search for party unity on Europe, John Major is a man in chase of a fluttering leaf forever being blown out of his grasp. His White Paper *in the spring* was supposed to have something to appeal to all Conservative MPs. Then, lest the Euro-sceptics were not satisfied, the Prime Minister's new policy of non-cooperation in Europe was *intended* as a further nod in their direction: if any trouble was expected, it should have come from the Euro-enthusiasts. Now 74 of Mr Major's own backbenchers have supported a Bill demanding a referendum on Europe *and, by implication*, an undertaking that the Government will attempt to repatriate powers at the forthcoming IGC.

For this latest blast of cold wind, Mr Major has only himself to blame. Nothing that the Prime Minister has done since he *bulldozed* the Maastricht *Bill* through the Commons has been able to *heal the rift that* the process opened up in the Tory party. Echoes of Maastricht *still* resonate along Commons corridors. And *they show no* signs of dying down.

Of those who supported Bill Cash's Referendum Bill *yesterday*, all but a handful were long-standing sceptics. This was not a cowardly, pre-emptive act by MPs trying to *stave off a challenge from* a Referendum Party candidate in their own constituencies at the next general election. Those MPs who *voted for* a referendum were thinking as much of the past as of the future. They are worried not just about further integration in Europe but about the extent of integration that has already been agreed.

So are the British people. In a Gallup poll on Monday, the vision of Europe which attracted most support was "a less integrated Europe *than now, with the EU* amounting to little more than a free trade area". This was more popular than with*drawal, more* popular than the status quo and more popular than further integration.

Yet the British people never had the chance to express that view when voters in France, Denmark and Ireland held their referendums. Nor, in effect, did MPs. A combination of bribery, blackmail and bullying *won Mr Major his Bill and its* beloved opt-out — just. This was not parliamentary democracy at its best; and the *price has been paid ever since.*

However fierce his protestations, Tory backbenchers do not believe that their leader *is the biggest sceptic in the Cabinet.* They do not trust him to stay firm over beef. They do not have confidence that he will risk *unpopularity at the IGC by demanding* a rethink of the Maastricht changes. They are not even sure that he will keep Britain out of a single currency. So low is the Prime Minister's stock that his own backbenchers want him to be bound by the electorate's views before he even enters the negotiations.

This state of affairs has come about because Mr Major has been unable to say clearly what he believes, to stick to that line and to act upon it. He has too often preferred to tell listeners what he thinks they want to hear. Seventy-four members of the governing party were *yesterday prepared publicly* to embarrass their leader. This grouping would be larger still were Conservative MPs *freed from the constraints of office* — a freedom that remains much the most likely result of the next election.

ARTS OF GOLD

Exquisite touchstones of humanity's enduring obsession

When the gleaming treasures which it has been *his life's pleasure to collect are placed* in Somerset House, Arthur Gilbert will have provided this great Neo-Classical palace overlooking the Thames with its appropriate complement of gilded splendour. Its vaults, so evocative of Piranesi's etchings of classical ruins, could have been designed *with just such intricate and splendid* triumphs of ostentation in mind. For the classical world was never, as it is too often *imagined today, chastely monochrome and* marble. And to its Renaissance reinventors, *whether Palladio, whose ideas influenced* Sir William Chambers's *design for this* great 18th-century palace, or the Adam brothers, "classical austerity" was a concept with no Puritan undertones.

They and their peers enriched the architectural purity of line of their exteriors with urns, rustication and statuary. As for *their interiors, they* may have shunned the vivid blues and reds that in ancient times would have covered the now pallid Parthenon: but gilding *adorned their mouldings.* In the light, spacious rooms were ormolu clocks, gilt or pure gold tableware, chased looking-glasses, ornaments, all proudly set to advantage.

Few of these collections remain intact. Some were sold — and some of those parted *with in this century* were happily purchased by Mr Gilbert — but much will have been simply melted down. For the peculiarly hard fate of the *great goldsmith* is that in every age, his swords are forever being beaten into something new.

He works in metal so indestructible by *nature* that his masterpieces may, long ages later, rise from forgotten tombs to confront an awe-struck Schliemann with *"the face of Agamemnon"*. Yet precisely because his raw material is so passionately *prized*, the chances are that man will rapidly recycle it, whether to *fit changing* tastes or, as coinage, to meet the financial demands of wars in pursuit of still more treasure. We know that the ancient Greek world was awash with gold and silver artefacts which were prized far above the painted vases by which their plastic arts are chiefly represented in our *museums.* But the golden glories of Priam or of Philip of Macedon are exceptions to the curse that falls particularly hard on those *works of Ozymandias, king of kings*, that were forged in the goldsmith's furnace. The lament of Propertius, that men came to *worship gold to the neglect of the gods — and* to the point that on earth, "by gold good faith is banished and justice is sold" — provides *all the clue that is required.*

Thanks in part to the gloomy art of the reliquary, the Church has proved a more effective custodian of wrought and jewelled art than were the patrons of antiquity. But gold in secular hands fared much as before. Were it not for the survival, in Vienna, of the great encrusted gold and enamel salt-cellar he created for François I, we would have to take largely on trust the proud boasts of *Benvenuto Cellini*, the 16th-century Florentine, that he was not only a brilliant sculptor but the greatest goldsmith of his age. In the *paintings of Veronese or Giulio Romano*, gold and silverware is piled in proud display before the eyes of the banqueters. Was it melted down, like the French *silverware* that Louis XIV imperiously called in from France's greatest houses to fund his endless military campaigns?

Over this history of man's destructive ways with the treasures that most inspire his lust, Mr Gilbert has scored a notable victory. *He offers Britain marvels.* They include not only the most magnificent collection of gold boxes in private hands but some of the *greatest* silver and silver-gilt work, by De Lamerie and Storr, ever created within these shores. These survivors from history's lost troves are *glorious fragments to* "shore against our ruin". His gift is an act of rare imagination and generosity.

RESURRECTION IN THE CITY

The way is again open to restore St Ethelburga

Rarely has the assertion of eternal Providence followed such a circuitous *logic* as in the *case of* St Ethelburga, the medieval church which was severely damaged by the Bishopsgate bomb three years ago. From the beginning, *The Times has* supported the *campaign* for complete restoration, but the Diocese of London has stubbornly opposed it. After much delay, the Anglican *authorities* advocated *a design* by the architects Blee *Ettwein* Bridges, which would have encased the ruins in a glass and steel box. Yesterday the City of London's planning *committee* overwhelmingly *rejected* that undistin*guished* proposal, which would have preserved the IRA's handiwork forever. There is now a real chance that St Ethelburga will be rebuilt, and with *it the* reputation of the Church *of* England as custodian of our ecclesiastical architecture.

For this to happen, however, the new Bishop of London will have to make his presence felt. Bishop Chartres is unencumbered by the Church's egregious bungling of this sensitive issue in the past. *Moreover*, he is known for his *integrity* and love of tradition. This suggests that he might see the merits of careful reconstruction on the lines proposed by the architects Rothermel Thomas, commissioned by the Friends of St Ethelburga.

He will need to be firm with his *diocesan* colleagues, some of whom may wish to waste further time *and* money on an appeal *against the planning* decision; and he should insist that the Church now respond *to public* and professional opinion. It is high time that the diocese concentrated its energies on raising the estimated £2 million which it will cost to rebuild.

There are genuine *practical* objections to the restoration of St Ethelburga. It may be argued that a depopulated City with too many *churches could do with fewer;* or that it is impossible to recreate an exact facsimile, merely a pastiche. But the public outcry has already disproved the claim that this unique *building is redundant;* and the accusation of pastiche could equally have been levelled at its Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian restorers. Abroad, the *same debates have often come* to the same conclusion. In Parma, for example, the population recently voted by a large majority to rebuild the royal palace, destroyed in the *last war, rather than have a modern* concert hall designed by the fashionable architect Mario Botta.

The Church of St Ethelburga survived the Great Fire and the *Blitz before falling victim to terrorists*. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the church's latest desecration, a grant from the National Lottery to help with rebuilding *might* well be war*ranted*, if such funds were matched by an appeal. The church has an endowment for its upkeep, and the ordeal of the past three *years has won it countless new friends;* so it need not be a burden on the diocesan purse. It is both noble and necessary to thwart the barbarous sacrilege of the IRA. Nothing less than the resurrection of this venerable edifice will achieve that end.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Time to refashion peace in Europe

From Lord Dahrendorf, FBA

Sir, *It is time to* put a stop to the war games currently played in Europe, and to do so swiftly and firmly. Rather *surprisingly*, these games seem to be played with special relish in this normally civilised and pacific country, Britain. Perhaps a start can be made here to make peace, not war.

I am a considerable sceptic when it comes to the realities of the EU. These are so far removed from the aspirations of Europeans that the choice is between reforms or irrelevance. This is, however, a different concern from that of the Euro-allergics who have an itch to leave Europe altogether.

They say: Europe is inescapably embarked on the road to federalism. Nothing could be further from the truth. Europe is today threatened by fission rather than fusion. In this, as in other respects, the Treaty of Maastricht has not helped; EMU will split rather than unite Europe. We must, *therefore, defend the single market*, pursue such common interests as enlargement to the East and develop the all-important habit of co-operation.

They say: Germany is taking over Europe. *It is true that German leaders* have not always shown the most exquisite sensitivity when they advocated a "European Germany" as against a "German Europe". For those outside the charmed circle the two are not all that different. Yet no one can seriously doubt the democratic credentials of a *now united Germany*, or the willingness of that great nation to cooperate with its European partners rather than dominate or turn its back on them.

Have such arguments already become too rational for the present climate? There is after all BSE. To my *mind* it exposes on the one hand the ineptness of our Government and on the other the health obsessions of Germans (and Americans, and New Zealanders and others). While there probably *is no simple answer now*, we must surely keep our sense of proportion in dealing with it.

In any case, the hostile rhetoric has to stop. Britain does not need to follow the twisted roads of the EU if it thinks it can find a better way, but Britain has to behave as a responsible, mature, *European country.*

Let us all stop the rot which has set in over the last weeks and months and *rebuild* confidence and understanding among Europeans so that we can all sing the *Ode to Joy* again without rancour.

Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
House of Lords.
June 10.

University challenge

From Dr Paul Whittingham

Sir, Dr McCrum ("Degrees of superiority", Education, June 7) suggests reasons for males outperforming females at university. The evidence is in *the form of the probability of gaining* a first-class degree, which is greater for men than for women.

Dr McCrum seems to have been selective in the statistics used. The Higher Education Statistical Agency publishes data for the university sector which shows, for the pre-1992 *universities*, that the *percentage* of firsts gained by women continues to rise.

The probability measure Dr McCrum used has shown for women *a consistent rise (60 per cent to 73 per cent)* since 1990, when his data stopped. Women are gaining ground from what could equally well be interpreted as a position determined by prejudice *and bias.*

Incidentally, does this make the universities of Wales and Northern Ireland inferior to those of Scotland and England, since they award, proportionally, *significantly fewer firsts?*

You could argue that men are dumber because they obtain a far greater proportion of thirds.

Yours sincerely,
K. P. WHITTINGHAM
(*Research consultant*),
16 Maultway Crescent,
Camberley, Surrey.
June 7.

Prince at Eton

From the Head Master of Eton College

Sir, Professor Hugh Stephenson presumes wrongly (letter, June 6). Eton played no part in "projecting" the report about HRH Prince William's work being selected for exhibition (details, June 1) and did not "help" the media to write it.

Like any school we are pleased when things go well for pupils, whatever their background, but we are as clear as Professor Stephenson would wish us to be that boys in the school should be able to get on with their lives in normal fashion without intru*sion by the media.* It is our policy not to comment upon or draw attention to the educational progress of individual boys.

I am assured that the press office at Buckingham Palace played no part in "*projecting*" *the story* either. Over matters of this kind school and Palace take exactly the same view.

Yours sincerely,
J. E. LEWIS,
Head Master,
Eton College,
Windsor, Berkshire.
June 6.

Justice and human rights in Nigeria

From the Executive Director of Article 19

Sir, Wednesday, June 12, marks the third anniversary of Nigeria's last presidential elections, which were arbitrarily cancelled by the Nigerian military forces when it became clear that Chief Abiola had achieved victory.

Since General Abacha assumed power three years ago there has been *an unprecedented attack on the institutions* of civil society in Nigeria. Writers and the press, organised labour and trade unionists, environmental and minority activists, pro-demo*cracy leaders and human-rights defenders* have been subjected to gross and systematic human-rights violations. These are in flagrant disregard of Nigeria's treaty obligations as a party *to the main International Human* Rights Convention. By detaining, imprisoning and executing its critics in the name of the law, the military Government has treated the independence *of the judiciary* with contempt.

Chief Abiola was arrested in June 1994 *after having publicly* declared himself president and has since remained in detention facing treason charges, which carry a possible death sentence. The military Government has ignored a court order granting him bail and he is reported to be in failing health, at least partly due to his prison *conditions*. On June 4 his wife, Kudirat Abiola, who had been an active campaigner for her husband's release, was murdered in Lagos (report, June 5), shot dead by men armed with *automatic* weapons. Her *death*, following other similar attacks on leading critics of the Government, suggests the emergence of a new and ominous pattern of political killings.

Article 19 is calling for the immediate appointment of an independent judicial commission to investigate Kudi*rat Abiola's death and the possibility* of government culpability. This must include international representatives of recognised integrity, competence and impartiality in order to ensure its independence.

The Abacha Government should be left in no doubt as to the seriousness with which the *international* community regards its continuing abuse of human rights, attacks on freedom of *expression and disregard for the democratic* wishes of the Nigerian people.

On June 12 human-rights organisations around the world will be confronting the Nigerian as well as their own *governments* to insist that these concerns are addressed.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES D'SOUZA,
Executive Director,
Article 19 (International Centre Against Censorship),
Lancaster House,
33 Islington High Street, N1.
June 11.

From the Chairman of Shell

Sir, Much has been written recently about Nigeria, *and the role that* Shell should play to bring about change. There are many dilemmas facing the Nigerian Government and its people, and we understand the feelings of *many people who believe, through* genuine concern, that Shell should use its influence — which, may I say, is greatly exaggerated — to bring about the sort of change they believe is *necessary*.

The solutions to Nigeria's problems can only come through dialogue and goodwill. *This process* is not helped by serious misrepresentations of the sort made in your editorial "Cry, Nigeria" (May 16). In particular, you stated in your editorial that "Shell came close to *endorsing the long detention of the* [Ogoni] 19 . . .", and that "At the very least, Shell should have called for their humane treatment and fair trial."

Our press release of May 15 did, however, call for that. We stated clearly that "Innocent or guilty, the accused have a *right* to *justice*, and while awaiting justice, they have a right to humane treatment." The release went on to say that "For the innocent, we hope to see early release. For the guil*ty, early justice and a degree of clemency.*"

We continue to believe clemency and reconciliation will serve Nigeria best. Neither of these is served by your leader and its unreasonable characterisation of Shell.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. JENNINGS, Chairman,
Shell Transport and Trading
Company plc,
Shell Centre, SE1.
June 11.

Westminster landscape

From Mr Tom Turner

Sir, Simon Jenkins's idea for a public square at the southern approach to Westminster Bridge (article, June 8) could work, but only in the context of an ambitious landscape plan. Unless *they have good access and surrounding* uses which generate pedestrian traffic, urban squares are neglected. The solution is to pedestrianise Westminster Bridge and design the island site as a splendid approach to Waterloo Station, the South Bank, St Thomas' Hospital and County Hall.

If our MPs worked beside a brilliant pedestrian scheme, even Eurosceptics might acquire a taste for making British town centres as attractive to walkers and cyclists as their conti*nental rivals. This is the way to counter* city-centre decay and out-of-town shopping.

Yours faithfully,
TOM TURNER,
University of Greenwich,
School of Architecture and
Landscape,
Dartford Campus,
Oakfield Lane, Dartford, Kent.
June 9.

V & A extension

From Professor Emeritus Felix Weinberg, FRS

Sir, I was reconciled to my failure to understand why anyone should ever want to design a building of the shape of the proposed V&A extension when *an interesting new perspective emerged* from Mr Pawley's letter (June 8; see also letters, May 24, June 4), which calls for a "2000-style debate about its embodied energy cost, its thermal performance . . ." etc.

The rate of heat loss, for given construction materials, is proportional to *the ratio of the outer walls' surface to* the volume of a building. Viewed as an ingenious strategy to maximise this surface-to-volume ratio, the scheme is clearly an unique pioneer*ing design.*

As one who walks past the site frequently, I look forward to being compensated for having to keep my eyes firmly shut by the leaking warmth, if this erection ever materialises.

Yours faithfully,
FELIX WEINBERG,
58 Vicarage Road, SW14.
June 8.

TV and the arts

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, Richard Morrison (Arts, June 1; see also letters, June 7) is wise to take BBC Television to task over its lack of coverage of music, dance and opera. *In Scandinavia no state subsidy* is available to opera and dance companies and orchestras unless they contract to appear for an agreed minimum number of performances a year on tele*vision. The Arts Council of Great Britain* has always faltered on this matter because of the concern of unions.

Further, the BBC has readily disbanded its permanent repertory company in the face of the drama talent available in the country. It is a mystery why it continues to pay for a permanent BBC Symphony Orchestra, rarely used for televising outside the Prom season, when we have four London orchestras, the Royal Opera and English National *orchestras*, the Hallé, the Liverpool Philharmonic, the Birmingham and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras, the Scottish National and the Welsh Opera Com*pany orchestras.*

In a small island we could have a dozen world-class orchestras avail*able for television and radio* and the BBC need not pay for the four hundred musicians to whom Richard Morrison refers.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY FIELD
(Finance Director,
Arts Council, 1957-84),
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.
June 7.

Swans' way

From Mr Colin D. Long

Sir, The 6.35am from Bedwyn, Wiltshire, to Paddington was delayed *this* morning, but there were no complaints. Four offspring of a pair of swans were found *dithering on the* track by the Thames Trains driver, by the side of the Kennet to Avon canal. He stopped the train and carefully carried them towards the canal, where they found their parents.

Quite apart from deserving congratulations for this humane act, the driver succeeded in adding a new term to the railway glossary: "Cygnets on the track" is a worthy excuse.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN D. LONG,
The Hassock, Oxenwood, Wiltshire.
June 3.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Cairn Gorm funicular

From Mr N. D. Thomson

Sir, It is gratifying that the directors of *the RSPB and National Trust for Scotland* (letters, June 1) see fit to unite in taking issue with your editorial (May *27*) *supporting the proposal* to build a funicular railway on Cairn Gorm. To suggest, as you do, that the primary *fear is that of scattered beer cans is an* insult to deeply felt concerns.

You rightly say that Britain is no Switzerland. *That is precisely* why the destruction of something as unique and precious as the Cairngorm plateau amounts *to an act of national* vandalism. You go on to suggest that conservation officials could designate pathways and *fence* off fragile ecosystems. Try telling that to birds like the dotterel.

Yours truly,
N. D. THOMSON,
Finnock House, Cliff Terrace Road,
Wemyss Bay, Inverclyde.

Medical aspects of living wills

From Professor Peter H. Millard

Sir Your correspondents (May 29, June 4) focus on the legal niceties of medical treatment of incapacitated patients without regard to the clinical reality of care. I remember with horror the "warehouse" wards of the past *where hordes of bedbound patients* waited interminably to die. By taking an active, optimistic approach to the *management of chronic illness* geriatricians transformed these wards into active treatment units: living wills would do the reverse; that is why they must be opposed.

Currently, any patient given complete information concerning the current state of their physical and mental wellbeing and advice on the treatment options open to them can refuse to *accept the optimal treatment*. The contract is clear.

The patient cannot insist that a doctor gives treatment that is contrary to informed medical opinion, nor can they choose a treatment that is wrong — they can only choose less than optimal treatment.

Advanced directives are undesirable if they instruct doctors to treat or not to treat *in specified circumstances*. Although such an approach has the benefit of giving instruction, it has the *drawback that it makes doctors* technicians.

Yours faithfully,
PETER H. MILLARD
(Eleanor Peel Professor
of Geriatric Medicine),
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Cranmer Terrace, SW17.

From Dr Philip J. Howard

Sir, The requirements in clinical practice for informed consent to treatment are increasingly stringent. Patients now rightly expect from their doctors a professional and accurate assessment of their condition and an explanation as to the risks, benefits and alternatives of any proposed therapy.

Most welcome the opportunity to discuss any areas of uncertainty or misunderstanding in an unhurried and sympathetic way. In addition, it is *now regarded as good practice for the* doctor or surgeon undertaking treatment to explain the procedure in person and not deputise to a junior.

All consent or refusal to treatment is, of course, made in advance. Nevertheless, from a medical perspective, Mr Bogle (letter, May 29) must surely *be right in pointing out that the law* will only bind the doctor if consent or refusal to treatment can be shown to be an ongoing expression of the patient's wishes (up to the time of becoming mentally *incompetent, in the case* of incapacitated adults).

There must surely be doubt as to the *validity and meaning of consent when* not contemporaneous or if not given with regard to exigent conditions and their reasonably foreseeable consequences. Even in the case of Jehovah's Witnesses *most doctors would need to* be practically certain of the patient's wishes before denying a life-saving *blood transfusion.*

Yours faithfully,
P. HOWARD
(Consultant physician),
St Helier Hospital,
Carshalton, Surrey.
June 8.

Beatrix Potter album

From the Chairman of the Beatrix Potter Society

Sir, I have now had the opportunity to *examine the photograph album* "compiled in old age by Beatrix Potter" (report, later editions, June 5), which is to be offered at auction on June 13, and I have to say that I am not convinced *that it was, in fact, put together by her.* The annotations giving the place and date of many of the photographs are certainly not in her hand.

What is not in doubt is that the album is a *wonderful record of Beatrix* Potter's life, with many of the photographs new to those of us who have spent many years researching the subject, and it would be a tragedy if it was to be taken out of the country.

In the past few years far too many important drawings, paintings, photographs and letters relating to this most talented and much-loved author and artist have been *allowed* to go to collections, both public and private, overseas.

Yours faithfully,
JUDY TAYLOR,
Chairman, The Beatrix Potter Society,
31 Meadowbank,
Primrose Hill Road, NW3.
June 9.

Not done to be seen

From His Honour Judge John Chalkley

Sir, The observations of His Honour Judge Holman in his article, "Drawbacks of a longer day" (Law, June 4), will attract wide support from the judiciary.

Particularly appreciated will be his effort to remind the public that judges are, after all, but frail human beings, *trying their best to maintain the old* traditions, viz: "Judicial functions have to be performed in chambers *before the court starts.*"

Yours faithfully,
J. CHALKLEY,
c/o Combined Court Centre,
Courts of Justice,
London Road, Southampton.
June 10.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 11: The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda was received by The Queen.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge (Chief of the Defence Staff) was received by Her Majesty.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this afternoon gave a Luncheon for the International Sacred Literature Trust at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, this evening attended a Banquet to celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Guildhall, London EC2.

Lady Dugdale has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 11: The Prince Edward, International Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended a Banquet at Guildhall, London EC2, to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the Award.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 11: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this afternoon attended the Industry and Commerce Group Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Association of Combined Youth Clubs, this evening visited Young Lewisham Motor Workshop, 124 Kilmorie Road, Lewisham, London SE23; Lewisham Way Youth and Community Centre, 138 Lewisham Way, London SE14; and Youth Action, Crofton School, Manwood Road, Catford, London SE4.

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 11: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Mrs Michael Gordon-Lennox as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 11: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited Falkirk and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Stirling and Falkirk (Colonel James Stirling of Garden).

Her Royal Highness visited Newhouse Business Park and opened the latest phase of the development, Willow House.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon subsequently opened the new Workplace Nursery at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
June 11: Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Richmond Fellowship, this afternoon attended a Reception to mark the opening of the St Charles Project, Ladbroke Grove, which was held at the Richmond Fellowship Headquarters, Peacock House, 8 Addison Road, London W14.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President, will attend the 1996 Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth conference at the Moat House International Hotel, Chester at 7.45; and will attend the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's dinner at the Bryn Howel Hotel, Llangollen, at 8.00.

The Princess Royal will open the Medway Tunnel, Rochester, Kent, at 10.00; will visit Cobham College, Gravesend, Kent at 10.55; as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend an industry committee meeting for the Second Launch of Corporate Membership Scheme at Buckingham Palace at 12.30; and as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will attend the council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 4.15. Later she will attend a reception for members of the Association of Royal Navy Officers at the Imperial War Museum at 6.30 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of Royal Patronage.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Notting Hill Housing Trust, will attend a performance by the European Chamber Opera at the Holland Park Theatre at 6.50.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the naming ceremony of the RNLB *George and Mary Webb*, the Whitby RNLI Lifeboat Station, Brewsters Lane, South of Fish Pier, Whitby, at 1.40.

Dean of St Paul's

The Very Rev Dr John Moses, Provost of Chelmsford, diocese of Chelmsford, is to be Dean of the Cathedral Church of St Paul in London, diocese of London, succeeding the Very Rev Eric Evans, who retires on September 30.

Birthdays today

Professor Michael Adler, venereologist, 57; Mr George Bush, former American President, 72; Mr C.D.L. Clark, publisher and lawyer, 63; Mr John Copley, opera producer and director, 63; the Earl of Cromartie, 48; Mr Vic Damone, singer, 68.

Mr Michael Fabricant, MP, 46; Sir Peter Froggatt, former Vice-Chancellor, The Queen's University, Belfast, 68; Lady Herries of Terregles, racehorse trainer, 58; Sir Kenneth Hollings, former High Court judge, 78; Mr Pat Jennings, footballer, 51; Mr Peter Jones, actor, 76; Lord Justice Kennedy, 61; Viscount Knollys, 65; Mr Oliver Knussen, composer, 44; Lord McCluskey, 67; Dr Ernest Mario, former chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 58; Lord Mayhew, 81; Mr John Townend, MP, 62.

University of Bristol

The 1996 Annual General Meeting of Convocation, at which the election of representatives of Convocation on Court and the election of the Standing Committee of Convocation will take place, will be held on Saturday, July 20, 1996, at 10.00am in the Junior Common Room of Clifton Hill House, Bristol, BS8 1BX. All former students and academic staff of the University are welcome to attend. Further information and the current Convocation Yearbook may be obtained from Dr M.J. Crossley Evans, FSA, Clerk to Convocation, University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol, BS8 1TH.

The figures represent musicians, dancers and actors popular with court and people

That's showbiz, Tang style

By Dalya Alberge, arts correspondent

FOUR earthenware entertainers made in China between the 7th and 8th centuries and valued at £100,000 are being offered for sale at a London gallery.

The Tang period figures, ranging in height from 12.5cm to 25cm, represent the musicians, dancers, actors and acrobats who were greatly appreciated in their day by both court and people. As in this group, dwarves were often included among such figures.

They are appearing in the summer exhibition *Sculpture and Ornament in Early Chinese Art* at the gallery of Eskenazi Oriental Art, the international dealer. Within 24 hours of opening, 16 of the 33 pieces had been sold for £3.5 million. The exhibits, which span more than 3,000 years, include a delicately-carved bone spatula of the Shang period (13th-12th century BC), archaic bronze wine vessels and exotic animals inlaid with semi-precious stones.

A bronze lamp dating from the Han period (206 BC-220 AD) is cast in the form of a man. The noble figure crouches on one knee, his right arm supporting a circular tray which would have contained burning oil. Eskenazi notes that the figure is modelled with an extraordinary degree of realism for a Chinese bronze of the period.

Another exquisite piece is an ox inlaid with stylised birds and scrolling motifs by a craftsman between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. The gallery said that such animal figures were often made as elaborate weights to secure fabrics or mats in the tomb.

The exhibition, which opened yesterday, continues until July 13.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Harriet Martineau, novelist, Norwich, 1802; Charles Kingsley, novelist, Holne, Devon, 1819; Sir Oliver Lodge, physicist, Penkhull, Staffordshire, 1851; Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon, Prime Minister 1955-57, Bishop Auckland, Durham, 1897; Leon Goossens, oboist, Liverpool, 1897; Anne Frank, who wrote a diary while hiding from the Nazis, Frankfurt am Main, 1929.

DEATHS: William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1759; Edward Troughton, scientist and instrument maker, London, 1835; Thomas Arnold, educator, Rugby, 1842; William Cullen Bryant, poet, New York, 1878; John Nicholson Ireland, composer, Washington, Sussex, 1962; Sir Herbert Read, poet and critic, Malton, Yorkshire, 1968; Sir Billy Butlin, holiday camp founder, Jersey, 1980; Dame Marie Rambert, founder of the dance company bearing her name, London, 1982.

Magdalen College, Oxford, was founded, 1458.

The Rotherhithe-Stepney tunnel beneath the Thames was opened, 1908.

Princess Anne became the Princess Royal, 1987.

Rescue on the drawing board

A NEW use is in sight for one of London's long-empty landmarks, the Roundhouse at Chalk Farm, Camden (Marcus Binney writes).

The Royal Institute of British Architects has approved plans by Sir Michael Hopkins, architect of the new Glyndebourne Opera House, to convert the 1840s locomotive shed as a home for RIBA's vast collection of drawings.

The former curator, John Harris, resigned because there was no space for the collection to grow.

Marriage

Mr H.G. Fetherstonhaugh and Miss D. MacLeod

The marriage took place on Saturday, June 8, 1996, at Abergele Register Office, North Wales, between Mr Henry George Fetherstonhaugh and Miss Davina MacLeod.

Luncheons

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Prince Edward, Trustee of the International Foundation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, attended a luncheon held yesterday at St James's Palace in honour of Dr Stanley Ho, International Benefactor. Mr Ronald Arculli was the host. The speakers were Mr Arculli and Dr Ho.

HM Government

Mr Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of the Malaysian Minister for Defence.

American Chamber of Commerce (UK)

Sir Brian Goswell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK), was in the chair at a luncheon held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane in honour of the Hon William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to HM Treasury.

Newspaper Society

Mr Robin Burgess, President of the Newspaper Society, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Bloomsbury House in honour of Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. Among those present were:

Sir Ray Tindle, Mr Mark Bolland, Mr Edwin Boorman, Mr James Evans, Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, Mr Guy Black, Ms Catherine Courtney, Mr Colin Davison, Mr Mike Glover, Mr John Hipwood, Miss Santha Rasaiah, Mr David Newell, Mr Bob Satchwell and Mr Alastair Stuart.

Reception

Royal College of Nursing

Sir Terence English, President of the British Medical Association, delivered the Dame Kathleen A. Raven lecture to the Royal College of Nursing at a reception held yesterday at Cavendish Square.

Dinners

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mrs Rifkind and Cabinet Ministers were the hosts last night at a dinner held in the Durbar Court, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to mark The Queen's official birthday. High Commissioners and Ambassadors, Acting High Commissioners and Chargés d'Affaires were among the guests.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society. Dr John Holmes, Professor Charles Curtis and Sir Francis Graham-Smith were the speakers.

Latest will

Mr John Menzies Kay, of St Briavels, Gloucestershire, former Professor of Nuclear Power at Imperial College of Science, London, and Director of Atomic Energy Production, Risley, left estate valued at £563,118 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Chambers and Miss C.M. Curzon

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr J.S.W. Chambers, of Perth, Australia, and Mrs Noëlle Chambers, of Minstead, Hampshire, and Camilla, daughter of the late Captain J.Q.P. Curzon and of Mrs Jennie Curzon, of Ilminster, Somerset.

Mr C.E. Kitson and Miss C.S. Jones

The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mrs Richard Kitson, of Barton Stacey, Hampshire, and of the late Mr Richard Kitson, and Caroline, daughter of Commander and Mrs Tim Jones, of Tiptoe, Hampshire.

Captain N.A. MacDonald, RA, and Miss C. Ditchfield

The marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place between Neil Alasdair, son of Major General and Mrs John MacDonald, of Kirknewton, West Lothian, and Catrin, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Ditchfield, of Honington, Warwickshire.

Mr D.S. Mills and Dr S.L. Hoult

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Christopher Mills, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Katherine Mills, of Donegal, Republic of Ireland, and Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Freddy Hoult, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr M.C. Rogerson and Mrs T. Adorian

The engagement is announced between Mr Michael Rogerson, of Eversley, Hampshire, and Mrs Tikki Adorian, of Howick, West Sussex.

Mr E.P. Stirling and Miss D.M. McCormick

The engagement is announced between Edouard, son of Mr and Mrs John Stirling, of Chelsea, London, and Deirdre, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles McCormick, of Belfast, Northern Ireland

Memorial services

Mr John Anderson

A service in celebration of the life and work of Mr John Anderson, a former editor, BBC News, was held yesterday at St John's Wood Church. The Rev John Slater officiated. Mr Tony Hall, Managing Director of News and Current Affairs, BBC, read the lesson. Mr Rupert Anderson read from *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, Mr David Holmes read from *Entirely* by Louis MacNeice, Mr John Morrison, Managing Editor of News Programmes, BBC, read from *The Tempest* by Shakespeare, and Mr Vivian White read from the works of Philip Larkin. Mr Alan Protheroe gave an address.

Richard O'Sullivan

A memorial service for Richard Michael Stanley O'Sullivan will be held at the Church of St Margaret, Lothbury, London, EC2, on Monday, July 1, 1996, at 5.00pm.

Appointments

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

The following have been installed officers of the Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr R.L.H. Merton; Wardens, Mr R.F.H. Vanderpump, Mr S.G. Orlik, Mr A.I. Styles and Mr I.M. Panto.

Company of Chartered Accountants

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr W.S.C. Richards; Senior Warden, Mr G.H. Kingsmill; Junior Warden, Mr W.K. Gardener.

Church retirements

Canon Robin Baker, Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Scorton and Bishop's Adviser on Hospital Chaplaincy (Blackburn) : to retire August 31.

The Rev David Fosbuary, Rector, Lawshall (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire September 30.

The Rev Derek Hawksbee, Vicar, East Ravendale; West Ravendale; Hatcliff, Beelsby, Ashby; Fenby; Brigsley (Lincoln): to retire July 31.

The Rev John Latham, Vicar, Flore w Dodford and Brockhall (Peterborough): retired May 23.

The Royal College of Physicians

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has elected to the Fellowship the following persons of distinction:

James (Whyte) Black, Kt, MB (St And), FRCP (Lond.), London; Stanley Desmond Roberts, MB, MD (Belf), FRCP (Irel), FRCP (Lond), Belfast; Gillian Rachel Ford, CB, BM (Oxfd), FRCP (Lond), FFPHM, London; Edmund Ronald Seiler, MB (Edin), DRCOG, DCH, FRCGP, Edinburgh; Tin Shwe, MB (Yangon), DCMT, PhD (Lond), Union of Myanmar; Ivor Turnbull Davie, MB (Edin), FFARCS (Eng), Hon FCPS (Bang), Edinburgh; John Michael O'Brien, MB (Manc), DPH (L'pool), FFPHM, FRCP (Lond), Northumberland; Alastair John Bellingham, MB (Lond), MRCS (Eng), LRCP (Lond), FRCPath, FRCP (Lond), President, Royal College of Pathologists, London.

Ewa Maria Brookes, MB (Lond), MRCS (Eng), LRCP (Lond), FRCPath, Dundee; Valerie Anne Ruckley, BSc (Hons), MB (Edin), Edinburgh; Narendrakumar Babubhai Patel, MB (StAnd), FRCOG, FACOG (Hon), Dundee; Tan Cheng Lim, MB (S'pore), FAMS, FRACP, Singapore; David J. Tiller, MB(Hons) (Sydney), FRACP, President, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Sydney, Australia; Michael Clarke, MB (Lond), MRCS (Eng), LRCP (Lond), DPH (Lond), FFPHM, FRCP (Lond), Leicester; Dorothy Carnegie Moir, MB, MD (Aberd), FFPHM, Aberdeen; Tan Yeang Tin, MB (S'pore), FAMS, FRACP, Singapore; Gunnar Sigurdsson, Cand Med et Chir (Iceland), PhD (Lond), Reykjavik, Iceland; John Vincent Forrester, MB, MD (Hons) (Glasg), FRCS Ed, FRCS (Glasg), FRCOphth, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire; Md. Fazlul Hoque, MB (Dhaka), FCPS (Bang), Bangladesh; Robert Hugh MacDougall, MB (St And), DMRT, FRCS Ed, FRCR, Edinburgh; Tadao Akisawa, MD, Tokyo, Japan; Henrietta Campbell, MB (Belf), FFPHM, Belfast.

Ignatius Kum Po Cheng, MB (Hong Kong), PhD (Sydney), FRACP, FHKCP, FHKAM, FRCP (Lond), Hong Kong; Gillian Mary Murphy, MB (Hons), MD (Cork), MRCP, Dublin; Terrence Everton St George Forrester, MB, DM, PhD (West Indies), MSc (Wisconsin), Jamaica; Sanguan Nitayarumphong, MB (Bangkok), MPH (Antwerp), Thailand; Andrew James Tannahill, MB (Hons), MRCPath, MSc (Edin), FFPHM, Edinburgh; Nigel Robert Webster, BSc(Hons), MB, PhD (Leeds), FFA, FCS (Eng), Banchory, Kincardineshire; Luis Sierrasesumaga Ariznabarreta, MB, MD (Hons), Navarra, Spain; Yap Hui Kim, MB, MMed (Paed), MD (S'pore), FAMS, Singapore; Yvon Berland, MD (Marseille), France; Richard Ian Kitney, MSc (Surrey), PhD, DSc, London.

BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

If your brother does wrong, go and take the matter up with him, strictly between yourselves. If he listens to you you have won your brother over.
Matthew 18 : 15 (REB)

BIRTHS

CHAPMAN - On June 3rd 2.45 pm at The Portland Hospital, to James and Caroline, a daughter, Charlotte Lauren, a sister for Thomas.

CODRINGTON - To Antonia (née McCullough) and Hugo, on June 8th, a son, Charlie.

DE LAMBILLY - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Mathilde and Hubert, a beautiful daughter, Victoria, a sister for Constance.

FANE - On June 8th 1996, to Sarah (née Hamilton) and Peter, a son, Michael William Tancred, a brother for Maximilian and Alexander.

FITZGERALD - Sue and Ross are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Laura Marie, on 7th June.

HARVEY - On June 5th 1996, to David and Suzy (née Hutton), a son, Henry William George, a brother for Rose and Patrick.

JAMIESON - On 5th June at Sydney, Australia, to Sue (née Penn) and Rick, a daughter, Sophie Tiffany.

JOHNSTON - To Kevin and Yvonne (née Best), a son, Christopher Charles, on 7th June 1996, a brother for Edward.

LEWRY - Benedict Dermot born 7th June 1996, 9lbs 4oz, to proud parents Rhona and Andrew.

MASSEY - On 7th June at The East Surrey Hospital, to Alison (née Akerman) and William, a son, Thomas Michael Orgill.

McCARTHY - On June 10th at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Michael and Jo (Jo Revill), a son, Sebastian David, Flora's brother.

MOSHFEGHI - On June 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Faz and Haleh, a strong handsome son, Arta, a brother for Maria.

OATES - To Ruth (née Joynes) and Tim on 7th June 1996, a son, Jack Thompson 8lbs 8oz.

ROPER-CALDBECK - On June 3rd, to Maria (née Greenlee) and James, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Jade, 8lbs 2oz.

SHEPHERD - On 8th June 1996 at Guy's Hospital, to Juliet and Terence, a son, Oliver James.

STIRLING - To Gillian (née Waddell) and Christopher, on 10th June 1996, a son, Hector Alastair William, a brother for Archie and Sophia.

TORRES-HERRERA - On June 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Maria Del Rosario and Alfonso, a boy named Simon.

UNTERHALTER - On 6th June at The Portland Hospital, to Gaby-Anne and Glenn, a beautiful daughter, Olivia, a sister for Alexandra.

WALTER - On May 23rd, to Giles and Sarah (née Dodley-Smith), a daughter, Susanna Clare, a sister for Jonathan.

DEATHS

ADAMS - Helen Mary (Mollie) aged 83 on June 9th in hospital after a short illness. Cremation on Friday June 14th at 12 noon at the Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton. All friends welcome at Mollie's house at Kingston for lunch at 1 pm.

ANDREWS - Agatha (Pat) Mary, beloved wife of the late Arthur Andrews OBE, mother of Robin, David, Christopher and Eileen and much loved grandmother. Peacefully after a short illness at Weston General Hospital on Sunday 9th June 1996. Funeral Mass at 12.15pm on Friday 14th June 1996 at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic Church, Cheddar. Flowers welcome or donations for Badgworth Court and Weston General Hospital may be forwarded to George Williams Funeral Directors, Penn Farm, Redcliffe Street, Cheddar, Somerset. tel: (01934) 742958.

BURNETT - On 10th June Rear Admiral Philip Whitworth Burnett CB, DSO, DSC, aged 87, much loved and devoted husband of Molly. Dad to Sarah, Nicola and Christopher, and Grampa to his grandchildren. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at 2 pm on 8th July at The Parish Church, Devoran. Donations if desired to: Mission to Seamen, Sandoes Gate, Feock, Truro. TR3 6QN.

CARRUTHERS - Nigel Victor peacefully at St Margarets Somerset Hospice on June 8th 1996, of Chard, formerly Newbury, aged 56 years. Dearly loved by all his family and many friends. Funeral Service at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Monday 17th June at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please but for those wishing to remember Nigel donations may be given if desired for St Margarets Somerset Hospice c/o Nicholas Bishop Funeral Services, Fore Street, Chard, Somerset.

CLARKE - Dr. Margaret Mary, widow of George and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs H.A.C. Downes. Retired Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to Great Yarmouth General Hospital. Died on June 8th after a long illness at Alexandra House, Great Yarmouth. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Gorleston, on Friday June 14th at 2.15 pm followed by burial at the Magdalen Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations to St Barnabas Society to A. Jary & Sons Ltd., 43 High Street, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

COLQUHOUN - On June 5th 1996 peacefully, Major General Sir Cyril Harry Colquhoun, K.C.V.O., C.B., O.B.E. Husband of the late Stella, much loved by family and friends. Thanksgiving Service at The Holy Trinity Church, Shenington Nr Banbury Oxon, at 2.30 pm on Tuesday June 18th 1996. Donations if desired to The Royal Artillery Charitable Fund, Artillery House, Front Parade, RA Barracks, Woolwich SE18 4BH.

CORIAT - Peacefully on Saturday 8th June, at Glebe House Nursing Home, Northleach, Priscilla, widow of Camel and much loved mother of Mary, Jenny, Susan and Christopher. Funeral at St Peter and St Paul's, Northleach, Friday 14th June at 11.30 am. No flowers, but donations to Glebe House Nursing Home or the Friends of Moore Cottage Hospital, Bourton-on-the-Water, both c/o Kendall & Davies, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos. GL54 2AA. Tel: (01451) 820277.

DUTTON - Peacefully on June 9th after a fall at home, Mark Frederick aged 81, loved husband of the late Joan and father of John, Nick and Andrew, and grandfather of Camilla, Timothy, Richard, Daisy and Freddie. Thanksgiving at St Boniface, Bunbury on Wednesday June 19th at 12 noon, after private cremation.

ELIOT - Philip Henry. On 10th June 1996 peacefully at home after a short illness, aged 70. Devoted husband to Sheilagh and father to Philip and Helen, loving grandfather to Riehen and Matthew, and respected father-in-law of Maria and Kevin. Will be missed by all his family and friends. Funeral at Paul Church, near Penzance, at 11 am Monday 17th June. All friends are welcome. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Donations and enquiries to Keith Burroughs, rear of Barwis Terrace, Penzance, TR18 2AL (Tel. 01736-64062).

FLYNN - Edith Mary on June 7th 1996 at Church Stretton, Shropshire. Cremation at Shrewsbury 11.20 am Thursday June 20th followed by Thanksgiving Service at 12.45 pm at the Parish Church, Church Stretton. No flowers but donations to Christian Outreach, 1, New Street, Leamington Spa, CV31 1HP (marked EMF).

GODWIN-AUSTEN - Jane peacefully on 10th June 1996 from injuries in a car accident. Devoted wife and mother, respected and loved by all. Funeral service for the family, and Parish friends on Friday 14th June at 3 pm at St James' Church, Papplewick. A Memorial Service will also be arranged. Family flowers only, donations to "Linby and Papplewick PCC" for St James' Papplewick Flowers and Restoration.

GOOCH - Peacefully on June 9th at The Knoll Nursing Home, Walmer, Kent, Yvonne Ellerton (née Stewart). Beloved wife for 63 years of Billy who died in April. Service at Barham Crematorium on Monday 17th June 1996 at 11.30 am. All enquiries to J. Dilnot Smith & Son, Walmer, Kent.

GOOD - Arthur Bernard Vaughan Good of Farnham, Surrey (formerly of Nyasaland) died 8th June aged 84 years. Greatly loved husband of Jean and father of James and Jane. Funeral on 14th June at Aldershot Crematorium at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Society c/o H.C. Patrick & Co., 86 East Street, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7TP.

HALL - Peacefully at home in Cirencester on Sunday 9th June 1996, Barbara E. (née Grove-White) aged 70 years. Beloved sister, aunt, great-aunt and dear friend to many. Cremation arranged for Thursday 13th June 1996 at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon at 3pm. Memorial Service to be arranged at a later date. Further enquiries c/o Cowley & Son Ltd, Funeral Directors, Triangle House, 62 Victoria Road, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1ES. tel: (01285) 653298.

HANKEY - Stephanie Mary Ross, formerly of Huntercombe Manor, peacefully on June 8th 1996 aged 85. Will be greatly missed by David and Alistair and their families. Funeral to take place at Holy Trinity, Nuffield, at 2 pm on Wednesday 19th June. All enquiries to J.W. Marcham & Son, 55 Wood Street, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 0AY. tel: (01491) 836145.

KRECKOVIC - Elra. Suddenly on Friday 7th June. Dearly beloved wife of John and mother of Joann and Annabel and grandmother of Georgina. Funeral Service on Monday 17th June at 11am All Saints Church, Church Gate, Fulham, off Putney Bridge. Interment afterwards at Putney Vale Cemetery. Flowers and enquiries c/o Sanders & Sons, 35 Barnes High Street, Barnes, SW13 9LP. tel: (0181) 876-8255.

MACKAY - Peacefully at his son's home in Rutland on Friday 7th June 1996 Alexander (Alastair) Downie Mackay M.B.E., F.R.I.C.S., formerly of Newton Mearns, Glasgow. Dearly beloved husband of the late Joan Carrick Mackay, loving father to Ronald, Careen and Morna and dearest grandfather to his six grandchildren. Funeral Service in the Church of Broom, Newton Mearns, on Friday 14th June at 10.30am, followed by burial at the Mearns Cemetery, Glasgow. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please but donations to the Macmillan Nurses will be accepted by Anderson Maguire Funeral Directors, 16 Cumming Drive, Mount Florida, Glasgow.

MADDRELL - Peter Harvey (Douglas), beloved and wonderful son of Roger and Joan and brother to Simon and Katrina. He will be greatly missed by the rest of his large family and many friends who dearly loved him. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium (Caversham) at 1.30 pm on Friday 14th June followed by a service of celebration for Peter's life at St Mary's Church, Shinfield at 3 pm. Flowers or if preferred donations to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Enquiries to Cyril H. Lovegrove, 141 Oxford Road, Reading. tel: (01734) 572016.

MAIN - Peacefully on 9th June 1996 Dorothy Isabel, widow of Captain Francis Main RN, mother of Anthony and the late John and loving Grandmother and Great-Grandmother. Family funeral on Monday 17th June. Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's Church, Petersfield on Monday 1st July at 11.30 am. No flowers but donations in lieu to St Peter's Church, c/o Funeral Services Petersfield Ltd., 19 The Square, Petersfield.

PETERSON - James Machunes on June 8th 1996 aged 97, Emeritus Professor of Physiology University College Cardiff, widower of Jean Nicol Howie and loving father of Magnus and Lindsay. A funeral service at St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, on Tuesday June 18th at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o F.J. Burton Funeral Directors, Pinkham, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Worcs. tel: (01299) 270420.

PHELIPS - (née Brown) on June 9th 1996 suddenly at her home in Exmouth, Kathleen Cecilia (Kay) aged 72 years, devoted wife of Harry, a much loved and loving mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and sister. All enquiries to Richard W. Gegg Funeral Directors, Exmouth. tel: (01395) 222444.

ROSS-HIME - Betty (née Crampton) on 9th June 1996 peacefully at home, aged 77. Devoted wife of the late Teddy. Beloved mother of Julie and Pie and to her sons-in-law Graham and Thomas, dearly loved granny to Edward, Charlie, Lucy, Elizabeth, Clare and Charlie-Tom, adored sister of Johnny and the late Esmé. Thanksgiving Service 12.30pm Monday 17th June 1996 at St James Church, East Malling, Kent, following a private cremation. No flowers please. If desired donations to Moorfields Eye Hospital c/o Viner & Sons Ltd., 54 High Street, West Malling, Kent ME19 6LU.

ROTHERWICK - Second Baron, Herbert Robin Cayzer, died peacefully in his sleep at home on 11th June 1996. Dearly beloved husband of the late Sarah Jane, and much loved father of Robina, Robin, Charles and Avon. Funeral Service at St Mary The Virgin, Charlbury on Monday 17th June at 11.30 am, followed by a private burial. Flowers to Fisher & Townsend, 81 High Street, Witney, Oxon. OX8 6LY.

STANDEN - Owen David D.Sc. peacefully at home on 9th June 1996 aged 83, beloved husband, father and grandfather. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Lower Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside, on Friday July 5th at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Talking Newspaper Association c/o Paul & Irene Mills Funeral Service, 87 Pensby Road, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 7RB. tel: (0151) 342-3339.

SUTTON - Christopher Hope, on 9th June 1996 suddenly at home in Southwick, aged 89. A dearly loved father and stepfather to Clive, Betty, Jean and Keith. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Southwick, Sussex on Tuesday 18th June at 2pm followed by committal at Worthing Crematorium. Flowers to A & F Pilbeam Ltd. Funeral Directors, 81 Underdown Road, Southwick. tel: (01273) 593494 or donations to St Michael's Church, Southwick.

THE-KALKHOF - Jeanne, on 30th May suddenly passed away after a short illness at the Centinella Hospital, Los Angeles, California, aged 55 years. Funeral Service on Friday 14th June 2 pm at St Peter's Church, Kensington Park Road, W11. Interment Kensal Green Cemetery, Harrow Road, W10, 3 pm. Donations, if desired, to Oxfam c/o J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, W2 4UL. tel: (0171) 229-3810.

WALTON BOTT - On 7th June 1996, peacefully in Ridgemead House N/H, Noel Walton Bott O.B.E., C. Eng., F.I.E.E., F.I.Mech.E., M.I.C.E., F.R.S.A., M.R.I., aged 88 years, formerly of Winchester. Loved father of Lesley and Jocelyn and a loving Grandad. Funeral Service at St Lawrence Church, Winchester on Monday 17th June at 3 pm. Flowers to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester (01962) 844044.

WATTS - Jim of Black Bourton on June 9th 1996. Funeral at Black Bourton Parish Church on Tuesday June 18th at 2.30 pm. Flowers to E. Taylor & Son, 21 Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon.

WILSON - The Hon Maud (Timmy), of Cumberland Lodge Mews, very peacefully, on June 10th. Daughter of the late Field-Marshal Lord Wilson of Libya. Much loved. Funeral at Royal Chapel, Windsor Great Park on Friday 14th at noon.

WILSON - John Stuart Gladstone on 5th June aged 79 years, beloved husband of Beryl, Professor of Economics at the University of Hull 1959-1982.

YARDLEY - Laura Dominica on 10th June 1996 aged 24. Adored daughter of Simon and Caroline and much loved sister of Jason and Gemma. Funeral at 3 pm on Friday 14th June at St Helen's Parish Church, Isle of Wight. Cut flowers to H.V. Taylor & Son, 46 Green Street, Ryde, I.O.W. by Thursday 13th June or donations to Save the Children. There will be a Service of Remembrance at 11 am on Friday 21st June at All Saints Church, Putney Common.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

VERSCHOYLE - May Hope deceased 22nd April 1996. A Memorial Service will be held at the Private Chapel, Colin and Tor House, 108 The Ridgeway, Wimbledon, on Thursday July 11th at 3pm. Please take this as only invitation. Could persons wishing to attend please contact Mrs H. Jones on (01647) 440368.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BRUCE - Hon. Bernard Bruce M.C. on his birthday. Remembered with love. Mary.

DUNN - Douglas R died June 12th 1992 Libya. Remembered always by those who knew him.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

CARDEN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Gwyneth Lady Carden will take place at 3.30 pm on Thursday, 11th July 1996 at St Martin's Church, East Woodhay, Newbury.

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OBITUARIES

ALAN WEEKS

Alan Weeks, BBC sports commentator, died yesterday aged 72. He was born on September 8, 1923.

ALAN WEEKS was to figure skating what Brian Johnston was to cricket, and what Dan Maskell was to tennis. He was one of the pioneers of television sports journalism, when production was still a little rough around the edges. One of the last voices to be associated with the original team of *Grandstand*, he introduced English viewers to a baffling vocabulary of double axels, triple salchows, lutzes, spreadeagle jumps and flying camels. He encouraged British ice skaters through a string of dazzling Olympic victories in the 1970s and 1980s, and instilled a rare state of pride in a nation of armchair-bound sportsmen.

Weeks attended both winter and summer Olympic Games. He witnessed John Curry becoming the first Englishman ever to win an Olympic figure skating title in Montreal in 1976. He was behind the microphone when Robin Cousins won the gold in Moscow four years later. Most memorably, he gave the emotional commentary on the gold medal-winning performance in ice dance by Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean at Sarajevo in 1984. Accompanied by the urgent beat of Ravel's *Bolero*, this earned the young skaters a string of nine perfect marks of 6.0 for artistic interpretation.

Weeks was an enormous fan of these two skaters. He had watched them perform since they were little more than children. Despite his best efforts, his voice often choked with pride when he watched them. But he rose to the intensity of their performance on this occasion and also two weeks later when they repeated it at the world championships in Ottawa. A power cut disrupted this latter competition and the couple's performance was put back, with the result that it could not be broadcast live until four o'clock in the morning. A great many people in Britain stayed up with Weeks to watch them.

Weeks's success as a commentator was based on his enthusiasm, professionalism and — most importantly in the frenzied world of broadcasting — amiability. Producers knew that they could call on him at the last minute for a commentary on an obscure sport about which no one else knew anything. He did his homework quickly and always managed a professional job. But, in the case of winter sports, this was a brilliant job. He remained calm and cool to work with but there was a stubborn streak in him, particularly if he wanted to make a special point in a commentary about a sportsman's performance.

Apart from ice skating, he was also an expert on swimming, ice hockey, gymnastics and football. He became an energetic director, during the 1970s, of the Sports Aid Foundation. He was in addition the original presenter, from 1970 to 1984, of *Pot Black* on BBC2, the programme which popularised the game of snooker.

Alan Frederick Weeks was born in Bristol but moved to Brighton at the age of five, and remained firmly attached to the area. His father was connected with the management of the pier. He lived throughout his life in Hove, moving to three different houses in the same street.

He was educated at the Hove and Sussex Grammar School, and went to sea as a 16-year-old cadet in the Merchant Navy. Two years later, in 1941, he transferred to the Royal Navy as a midshipman.

He was demobilised as a lieutenant in April 1946 and returned to Brighton. The local sports stadium gave him his first job. He was appointed publicity manager of the stadium, which incorporated an ice rink, and secretary of the local ice hockey club, the Tigers, a job he kept until 1965. He worked all hours, arranging table tennis tournaments, publicising boxing matches, preparing ice shows.

He also made the public address announcements at the ice rink and one day he had the good fortune to be overheard by Peter Dimmock, co-founder of an early sports programme, *Sportsview*. Dimmock was impressed and asked Weeks to audition at the BBC, which he did during the second period of an ice hockey match. He was told that this would be a recording, not live. But then suddenly plans changed and it was decided to put the third period of the game out to listeners live, with Weeks behind the microphone. Weeks rose triumphantly to the occasion, gave a masterly commentary and was welcomed into the BBC sports team.

His first broadcast for the BBC was in 1951. These were the early days of live broadcasting, when events often strayed far from the original script, and when broadcasters were required to be versatile and to keep up an intelligent flow of comment, even when nothing was happening. Ice skating, for instance, was then often held in outside rinks, and performances could be stopped when the weather became rough. Weeks, microphone in hand, and stationed underneath a voluminous umbrella, would carry on talking while the resurfacing machine steadily ploughed its way around the rink.

Britain's history of success in ice skating began in 1952 when Lawrence Demmy and Jean Westwood won the first of their three gold medals in the world championships. In 1958 Weeks was sent to Bratislava to cover the European championships, and the world championships in Paris, where he watched June Markham and Courtney Jones win the ice dance title for the second time. He was in Prague, ready to cover the world championships in 1961, when the plane carrying the American team crashed, killing the entire group. The competition was cancelled.

Weeks was, therefore, halfway through his career, and already established as the voice of figure skating, by the time that Britain entered its golden decade in the sport, from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s. He was also commentating on swimming at the time; so that, in 1976, he was behind the microphone when John Curry won his gold in the men's figure skating at the Winter Olympics and David Wilkie won his gold in the 200m breaststroke that summer. And he repeated this double four years later, with Robin Cousins and Duncan Goodhew, who won the 100m breaststroke. It seemed that every time he picked up his microphone, Britain won a gold medal.

He ended his association with Torvill and Dean in the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer in 1994. An astonishing 23.9 million people in Britain tuned in to the competition to see if the couple could repeat their Olympic gold (they narrowly missed). But it was a figure which will probably not be reached in sports television again, particularly with the proliferation of satellite television. Weeks was stunned when he was told of the figure. But he had always been a modest man. He only retired finally last March after the world figure skating championships in Canada.

He is survived by his wife Jane, and by a son. Another son and daughter predeceased him.

THE VEN PETER MALLETT

The Ven Peter Mallett, CB, Chaplain-General to the Forces, 1974-80, died on June 5 aged 70. He was born on September 1, 1925.

FEW Chaplains-General have managed to relate so closely with all ranks of the Army and their families as did Archdeacon Peter Mallett. He won the complete confidence of the Army Board and brought his enthusiasm for the enjoyment of a Christian life to Other Ranks as well.

Educated at King's College London and St Boniface College, Warminister, he was a curate at St Oswald, Norbury, in south London for three years before joining the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1954. Within two months he was in the jungles of Malaya as regimental padre of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment. What he lacked in stature — he was just 5ft 5in tall — he more than made up by the strength of his outgoing personality. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1957 for his services in Malaya.

Granted a regular commission in 1957, he earned his spurs handling some of the most difficult cases when he was posted as chaplain to the "glass house", or Military Corrective Establishment, at Colchester. His success there underlined his ability to relate to people in all sorts of circumstances.

Further postings to the Far East, including Hong Kong, brought him to his final testing ground at regimental level. Posted to the Infantry Junior Leaders Regiment at Oswestry, he brought forth an enthusiastic response from the impressionable young men and the permanent staff, teaching the basics of the Christian faith in the classroom and accompanying the boys on exercises on Dartmoor and in the Welsh mountains.

Promoted senior chaplain in 1965 and posted to 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany, be began to show his qualities of leadership. Many of the novel ideas which he introduced became common practice in the Army. When the Aden crisis erupted in 1967, he was sent out as senior chaplain of the Aden Brigade with the task of supervising the regimental padres of units fighting in the arid mountains of the Radfan.

During the evacuation of Aden in November that year, he had to wind up the military churches and was the last chaplain to leave. He then had a short spell with the Berlin Brigade before taking over the prized job of being senior chaplain to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. It was here that he began to show his great sense of ceremonial, besides being able to hold the most cynical of officer cadets spellbound when preaching in the Academy's Memorial Chapel.

From 1972 onwards, he moved rapidly to the top of the Chaplains' Department. He was promoted Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General in Northern Ireland, followed by Assistant Chaplain-General in Northern Ireland. He was then made Assistant Chaplain-General to the British Army of the Rhine and finally took over as Chaplain-General to the Forces in July 1974.

Six years in this post were marked by steady improvements in the chaplaincy service: better pay and conditions, consequential increases in standards and of the numbers of men seeking to become chaplains, the continuation training scheme and creation of the chaplains' mobile display to "show the flag" at army displays and tournaments. Most memorable of all was his personal contribution to great ceremonial occasions, such as the presentations of colours and the Remembrance Day services at cenotaphs at home and overseas.

Important though these were, the greatest contribution made by him and his wife during his tenure was their ability to bring the Christian message to all ranks and their families. He was appointed Honorary Chaplain to the Queen in 1973 and CB in 1978.

After he retired in 1980, he became managing director for Inter-Church Travel for five years. He was appointed a canon of the diocese of Gibraltar in Europe in 1982. A heart condition reduced his activities in later years. He died suddenly while preparing for the bicentary celebrations of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

He married Joan Margaret Bremer in 1958. She survives him, together with a son and two daughters.

BRIAN HARTLEY

***Brian Hartley*, CMG, MBE, former Colonial Service officer and specialist in tropical agriculture, died in Mombasa, Kenya on June 5 aged 88. He was born in Kegworth, Leicestershire, on July 31, 1907.**

BRIAN HARTLEY must have been one of the most eccentric and talented agricultural officers to be recruited by the Colonial Office. His father and grandfather were both civil servants of Yorkshire farming stock. These associations prompted his going to the Midland Agricultural College, Loughborough. He next won a Colonial Service scholarship to Oxford and later to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad.

Brian Joseph Hartley had two rich uncles. One, a bachelor, farmed in Yorkshire and might well have left the farm to his nephew. But Hartley was certain that he wanted to go abroad. The other, Ernest, had made money in India and bought an estate in Ireland, where Hartley spent happy holidays playing with his pretty young cousin, Vivien. Unfortunately, Ernest lost all his money in the crash of 1929. Vivien had to work. She became an actress, changing her name from Hartley to Leigh and going on to marry Laurence Olivier.

In 1929 he took up his first post as an agricultural officer in a district of Tanganyika (now Tanzania). He was given few instructions, beyond being told that his predecessor had vanished and had never been seen again.

The district was much troubled by locusts. Hartley was the first man to observe the change (then known only in theory) that comes over gravid locusts when they have finished swarming before laying their eggs. This enabled him to develop new ways of dealing with them.

He acted always with a bold independence, closing most of the useless cotton seed farms and opening a new one on better land that is still today Tanzania's most important research station. His next problem was an outbreak of bubonic plague. His time in Trinidad had given him some knowledge of tropical medicine. He managed to contain the plague in part of his domain by persuading many village chiefs to burn their huts.

When looking for a site for a new settlement near the lake, he shot two impala for the pot, not realising that they were sacred to a local secret society. To erase the memory of the disaster, the people held a special ceremony, involving putting youths into a trance and speaking through them to the gods. Hartley watched. A few nights later, back in Dar es Salaam, he leapt up and plunged through his mosquito net, wrecking it in the process. He had never done such a thing before. He was to do it again and again, frequently leaping out of windows, even off a roof. This sleep-leaping lasted thirty years before it faded and finally stopped. Hartley believed he was the victim of a spell. He learnt later that the secret society never let strangers watch their ceremony; and, if one did, they punished him cruelly.

Hartley did two more tours in Tanganyika. During the second one, he concentrated on improving cotton production. The chiefs trusted him and urged their people to produce the required quota. The results of his campaign raised production in his region tenfold, from 100 tons to more than 1,000. This success led to his being appointed MBE at the age of 27.

For his third tour he was sent to Arusha, a town at the foot of Mount Meru, the centre for European settlement. Hartley found working with the settlers awkward, as he did not share many of their views. He preferred dealing with the tribespeople, especially the Maasai.

His methods were sometimes unorthodox. One tribe given to drinking and womanising had so neglected their duties that some 300 households had dangerously low stocks of food. He arrested the most feckless, took them to a swamp area and made them plant maize. He kept them there for 90 days, by which time the crop had grown and all threat of hunger was gone. It was a novel, if politically incorrect, way of averting a famine.

He had always been determined not to end up penniless, as did most Colonial officers. Land was cheap in Kenya. He bought more than 2,000 acres on the slopes of Mount Kenya for less than £1,000.

In 1938 Hartley was posted to the Aden Protectorate. It was there that he developed a lifelong interest in camels, becoming after two years the assistant commandant of the Camel Corps. It was there, too, that he met Doreen Sanders, the secretary to the Governor. When she first saw him he was dressed up as an Arab. Hearing his perfect Arabic, she concluded that he must be one. They married in the Anglican church in Aden in 1951, but the real celebration was a four-day feast in the desert, complete with horses and camels and guns and whirling dancers.

He also served as a political officer, negotiating peace between warring tribes. He found that bringing people prosperity through agriculture was the way to prevent their killing each other. In Abyan he flooded an area laid waste by feuds and started to grow cotton. The crop's success ended the feuds and instituted a lucrative scheme. It was for this feat that he was appointed CMG.

Hartley remained in Arabia as agricultural adviser until his retirement in 1954, when the family returned to Africa. Thereafter, at first farming his Kenyan farm but later moving to one in Tanzania (confiscated in 1966 by the Nyerere Government), he became an adviser to almost every agricultural project in East Africa and the Middle East, including Iraq, Turkey, Somalia, Yemen and Ethiopia. Finally he became a voluntary consultant to various charities, including Oxfam.

Hartley's last project was a personal one. In 1987, a year of severe drought, he returned to his beloved Tanzania. He decided that what the Maasai needed were camels. There were none in the country, though there are many in Kenya. The advantage of camels over cattle is that they graze at a high level, not damaging the land with their gentle feet. They drink less water and give more milk.

Aged 80, he walked with a troop of camels some 300 miles from northern Kenya to the Tanzanian border. Once the Maasai understood the benefits of herding camels as a supplement to their cattle, they welcomed them. The Tanzanian Government was less enthusiastic, placing many obstacles in his way. Hartley and his son Kim, using their own funds, persisted. Eighteen months ago, the Government gave their full backing. Hartley, who did so much for so many people with never any thought of self, could at least die happy.

He is survived by his wife, their three sons and one daughter.

ON THIS DAY

June 12, 1911

Claude Grahame-White proposed to fly from Hendon by night in fancy dress, aided by searchlights, to the Coronation Ball in the Royal Botanical Gardens

AERONAUTICS.

PROPOSED FLIGHT OVER LONDON.

We have received the following letter from Mr.F.G. Plummer (hon. sec. of the Coronation Ball Committee):

"I beg to inform you that Mr Claude Grahame-White has made application to the Royal Aero Club for permission to fly from Hendon to the Coronation Costume Ball at the Royal Botanical Gardens next Friday night. As the distance is short, and as the committee has made ample arrangements for his landing in a large open space completely surrounded by a strong iron barrier, it is most likely that the necessary permission will be granted. At the moment the aeroplane is timed to leave Hendon strong searchlights placed in the Royal Botanical Gardens will flash straight up into the sky, signalling the direction for the aviator and as he descends, the rays will be focussed upon him. In addition, strong coloured lights will mark the spot where he is to land.

"The aviator will be dressed in fancy costume, and will entertain a party of friends whom he has invited to the ball, where he has taken a box for the occasion. Immediately on his landing mechanics will mount guard over his aeroplane until he is ready to depart at the close of the ball, when he will fly back to Hendon."

The proposal to fly over part of London by night seems to be a highly questionable one. The consequences of an accidental descent short of the destination might be fraught with danger to the public, while it can hardly be said that recent events, such as the accident of Issy-les-Moulineaux a few weeks ago, justify any great amount of confidence in an airman's ability to alight upon a rose from a circumscribed area without endangering those around him, and competent airman though Mr Grahame-White has proved himself to be, misgivings must necessarily be felt as to the advisability of a descent at night into a very restricted space.

The "Act to provide for the protection of the public against dangers arising from the navigation of aircraft" received the Royal Assent on June 2. The Act enables the Secretary of State, "for the purpose of protecting the public from danger" to prohibit navigation of aircraft over prescribed areas.

CROSSING THE ATLANTIC BY AIRSHIP.

Mr. Melvin Vaniman, the American airman, left for America on Saturday in the Lusitania to supervise the completion of the Vaniman dirigible balloon, which is being constructed at Akron, Ohio, and in which he will attempt to cross the Atlantic from America to Europe this autumn.

Mr Frank A. Seiberling, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Akron, Ohio, will bear the entire expense of the expedition, which, it is estimated will cost between £25,000 and £30,000. Mr Vaniman has given some details of his proposed attempt: "Crossing the Atlantic in a dirigible is not a question of winds or of navigation any longer. As far as gas is concerned, the present perfection of rubber-coated fabrics for dirigibles will enable a balloon to stay in the air for 30 days . . ."

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Tuned in to the BBC nightmare

I have seldom been as proud of my fellow hacks as last Friday when, at ludicrously short notice, we were summoned to Broadcasting House to hear something so secret its very subject could not be breathed the night before. Upon entering, we were given a two-page press release, which became obsolete the minute the Chairman and Director-General of the BBC had filed into the room and the words "Pack, please" were hurled into the air. Suddenly, we all were supplied with a 21-page document, long on charts, short on verbs, describing in glowing management-speak "A Structure for the Digital Age".

The questions that followed cut right through the gloss. "Is this not just another bureaucratic reshuffling of the cards that will lead to no savings at all?" "Is this not another step in the commercialisation of the BBC?" "Aren't you reorganising for some nebulous future and not for benefit of the licence fee payer?" "Is this not a diminution of the World Service's independence?" "Will this not further depress staff morale?" And, most obvious of all: "Isn't this a downgrading of BBC Radio?"

BRENDA MADDOX

To all of these, John Birt, the Director-General, answered "No". He spoke reprovingly, but more in sorrow than anger. "I'm familiar with your views, Ray". "No, Maggie, that's quite wrong". "I can understand how you might be confused on that, Brenda."

But the answers to the questions are "Yes". It is now obvious that Liz Forgan, managing director, radio, could not stay in an organisation where radio is to lose its corporate identity. It is blindingly clear that the centrepiece of the restructuring — the separation of "broadcasting" from "production" — will be a time-consuming, expensive nightmare for those who work at the BBC. It is well known that the BBC's licence fee payers do not want a 24-hour television news service — and that there is no commercial advantage in one. International television news services have great trouble achieving profitability.

As for what is being done to the World Service, no one could put it better than John Tusa, its former managing director: "The greatest act of bureaucratic vandalism ever committed against the World Service." And who can believe that the young Controller of Radio I is the ideal choice to head all of BBC Radio, the jewel in the BBC's crown?

This reorganisation will work. Like a computer game, it has been designed to work. How the BBC might have gone into the next century, loyal to its traditions, to radio, to the symbolic edifice of Broadcasting House itself, must remain speculation. The new Chairman, Sir Christopher Bland, has given John Birt four more years to finish his cultural revolution. It will be carried out, whatever the licence fee payer thinks.

Now that the mystery of Liz Forgan's departure from the BBC has been solved, another remains. Why is Jon Davey, director of cable and satellite for the Independent Television Commission, taking early retirement? In his announcement, Davey used words that coming from a more devious man would be suspect: "I would like you to be assured that this does not reflect any disagreements within the ITC."

Can that be true? Up to a point, yes. Peter Rogers, the new chief executive of the ITC, is, like Davey, one of the nicest, most able and straightforward men in broadcasting. He undoubtedly will deal, just as Davey promises, "sensibly and effectively" with the new media. But cable has slipped in the new media hierarchy. In the heady days of early Thatcher, cable television was so favoured as a new technology that it got a whole regulatory body to itself. Davey was its Director-General. But in 1991, the Cable Authority was shut down and shunted into the new ITC. Davey remained at the helm of what was now the cable and satellite division. Now, in September, these responsibilities are to be merged with the ITC's programmes division.

Clearly time to go. The departure of Davey, at 58, marks the death of the dream that cable television is more than a new way of selling cheap telephone service. It also marks the end of the folly of thinking that a regulatory agency should boost the industry it supervises.

Davey has been the wobbly new cable industry's staunchest champion. When, some time within the next ten years, three quarters of the country will be reached by a broadband cable network, the achievement will be his.

But useful as the cable networks are for carrying not only extra television channels but electronic information, they are hardly as essential as thought in the 1980s. Telephone lines, connected to computers, can now deliver two-way electronic information services. Consumer enthusiasm to sign up for cable has been weak. What the 1.3 million subscribers seem to like it for best is its ability to undercut BT's telephone rates.

Cable's heyday is over without ever having arrived. It is now a struggling telecommunications business mainly regulated by Oftel. The ITC will police it only to the extent of insisting that hardcore foreign frolics do not appear on its entertainment channels.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

New York feels the Pinch

A FIGHT for succession is predicted at *The New York Times*, Manhattan's family-controlled "grey lady".

The chairman and chief executive, Arthur Ochs "Punch" Sulzberger (his older sister is called Judy), is expected to step down in the next five years, by which time he will be 75. In the running to succeed him: either his son Arthur Jr, nicknamed "Pinch", or a cousin, Michael Golden. Both work on the paper and are friends — they even holiday together.

The New York Times likes to consider itself the most influential newspaper in the world, but it is also, arguably, the most politically correct (that is, dull) and slow to respond to technological advances. Colour is still a rarity, and its management has failed to keep pace with the new media. *The New Yorker* magazine reports that the succession question was raised embarrassingly at the company's most recent annual meeting.

"Punch" would dearly love his son to succeed him, but the younger Sulzberger, whose family has run the *NYT* for 100 years, is seen by some as irredeemably uncommercial and PC. "Pinch" may be squeezed.

BLUSHES at the Blackfriars HQ of the Sunday Express, *which launched a spectacular promotion several months ago: packets of flower seeds for all, it enthused. All green-fingered readers had to do to claim their horticultural free gift was to write in with their address.*

Alas, all is not well in at least one British garden. "Thank you for your lovely begonia seeds," a bemused reader wrote in a letter to the paper. "I planted them all round my front and back borders, where I now have a lovely crop of lettuces."

Out of harmony

MacKenzie: conference

Rowe: frank assessment

THE rise and rise of Kelvin MacKenzie within the Mirror Group continues apace. MacKenzie, who once famously described the people who run British television as "a bunch of parasitical pansies", has taken to his role as the Group's TV supremo with gusto and now seems to be fully embracing the management culture of the media luvvies he once affected to despise. A corporate "love-in" held for 70 Mirror executives at the swanky golfing hotel, the Marriott Saint Pierre in Chepstow, last week was — apparently — all his idea.

Rather than bring the company's top people closer together, however, the outing reputedly produced the opposite effect when hostilities broke out between Paul Vickers, the Mirror Group company secretary, and MacKenzie's protégée Bridget Rowe, MD of *The People* and the *Sunday Mirror*. Judiciously waiting for MacKenzie to turn in for the night after dinner, Vickers apparently gave Rowe a full and frank assessment of her IQ. She took it badly and the two are now refusing to speak to each other.

● *LEAKED audience research reaches us on the BBC Radio 4's* Thought for The Day, *which has been the reserve of media-savvy religious thinkers for more than 20 years.*

Although 44 per cent of respondents agreed that it was an important part of the Today *programme, an unusually high 22 per cent disagreed. This was the highest level of negative responses scored by any single item in the show. Only programme trailers were ranked more unpopular. Perhaps it is time* Today *editors junked the item entirely, instead of dumping* Thought for The Day *presenters whom it considers to have passed their sell-by date.*

Mad Max

STATION bosses at Granada Television were none too pleased last month when the publicist Max Clifford, whom they had hired as minder to O.J. Simpson for the duration of his Richard and Judy interview, went native. Clifford criticised the interviewers for giving O.J. a hard time and treating him as if he were a murderer. Now it seems that Granada has forgotton to pay Clifford for all his hard work.

"I was meant to be paid four or five weeks ago and I haven't received anything yet," the publicist complains. "I don't know if they have decided not to pay at all. All I can say is that actions speak louder than words."

Admen shape up for a new challenge

The wonders of Eva

ADVERTISING

THE advertising agency that brought us Wonderbra's Eva Herzigova and her fabled B-cups now has another woman making the headlines. Julia Felthouse, the curvy PR being pilloried by the tabloids for her liaison with the Welsh MP, Rod Richards, is a client of TBWA.

Ms Felthouse worked at the National Canine Defence League and commissioned the agency's controversial but award-winning "Toys Aren't Us" poster.

Trevor Beattie, an adman renowned for exploiting publicity opportunities for his agency, tells us: "She met Rod because part of her job involved lobbying MPs on the cause of dogs. That's how she got into the Commons. So it's sort of our fault."

Beattie says he visited Ms Felthouse at an undisclosed address towards the end of last week. "She's gone into hiding. She's changed her appearance and is seeking revenge because she reckons she has been treated most unfairly by the media."

Maybe Beattie could help by dreaming up some campaign to salvage the reputation of the poor lady. Like a big poster of her, all scantily clad, saying "Hello Boys". But maybe that's not quite right. And anyway, it's been done before.

IT'S official: the advertising recession seems to be over. Attendance figures for this year's International Advertising Festival in Cannes are set to be 15 per cent up on last year. That is the biggest increase in visitors to advertising's equivalent of the Cannes Film Festival for several years, and means that around 5,000 adfolk from around the globe will be converging on the Croisette between June 24 and 29.

This year will see the first delegation from China — about 170 delegates on a fact-finding mission. Charles Scibberras, festival director, says: "Mainland China is moving away from propaganda towards advertising. They realise they must embrace advertising to signal their move to a Western culture."

It should be a steep learning curve for the newcomers. Not only will they be able to savour the dubious pleasures of Brazilian advertising while at the festival, as well as discover the special brand of humour of which German admen are so strangely fond — they will also be subjected to scandalously inflated Western prices. At current rates, a glass of mineral water at the ritzy Hotel du Cap d'Antibes in Cannes should set delegates back Fr70 (£9). Somewhat more than the average bowl of noodles back home, perhaps.

THE Women's Advertising Club of London held its first conference this week. A list of high achievers offering tips on "How to Make the Most of Your Career" included Rita Clifton, the executive planning director of Saatchi and Saatchi, Stevie Spring, managing partner at Young & Rubicam and Cilla Snowball, client services director at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO.

Clifton stole the show with a convincing argument that women possess far more of the personal skills needed in business than men, a pity no men were there to hear it.

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Why is Birt killing off a top team?

Critics fear it could spell the end of the BBC's production arm as one of the best in the world

ALEXANDRA FREAN

As staff at the BBC attempt to digest the full implications of the enormous management and structural changes announced by the Director-General, John Birt, questions are growing about the role of Alan Yentob, Controller of BBC 1.

Few in the BBC knew of the impending revolution and it is understood that Mr Yentob was given just 48 hours' notice of the changes to be announced. He was asked to make up his mind immediately on which of two elevated positions he would like to take: director of television or director of programmes. Mr Yentob's dilemma in choosing which job to take goes straight to the core issues behind the reorganisation.

Mr Birt's restructuring provides for the creation of six divisions, including two centralised "super" directorates, BBC Broadcasting and BBC Production. The first will be responsible for scheduling and commissioning all BBC television and radio programmes (including World Service radio and satellite television programming), while the second will be charged with making them.

As director of television within the broadcasting directorate, Mr Yentob would be able to continue his high-profile job of BBC1 Controller. He would also have umbrella responsibility for the commissioning and scheduling of BBC2, the BBC's overseas satellite television services and any new digital channels that the corporation may launch.

As director of programmes, within the production directorate — a "bigger" job — Mr Yentob would have to relinquish hands-on control of his beloved BBC1 and would be in the position of a salesman, hawking his wares around the corporation's television or radio controllers and having to respond to their demands for tailor-made products.

Senior BBC executives, who are pushing Mr Yentob, 49, to take the job in production, claim that the post would make best use of his renowned creative talents.

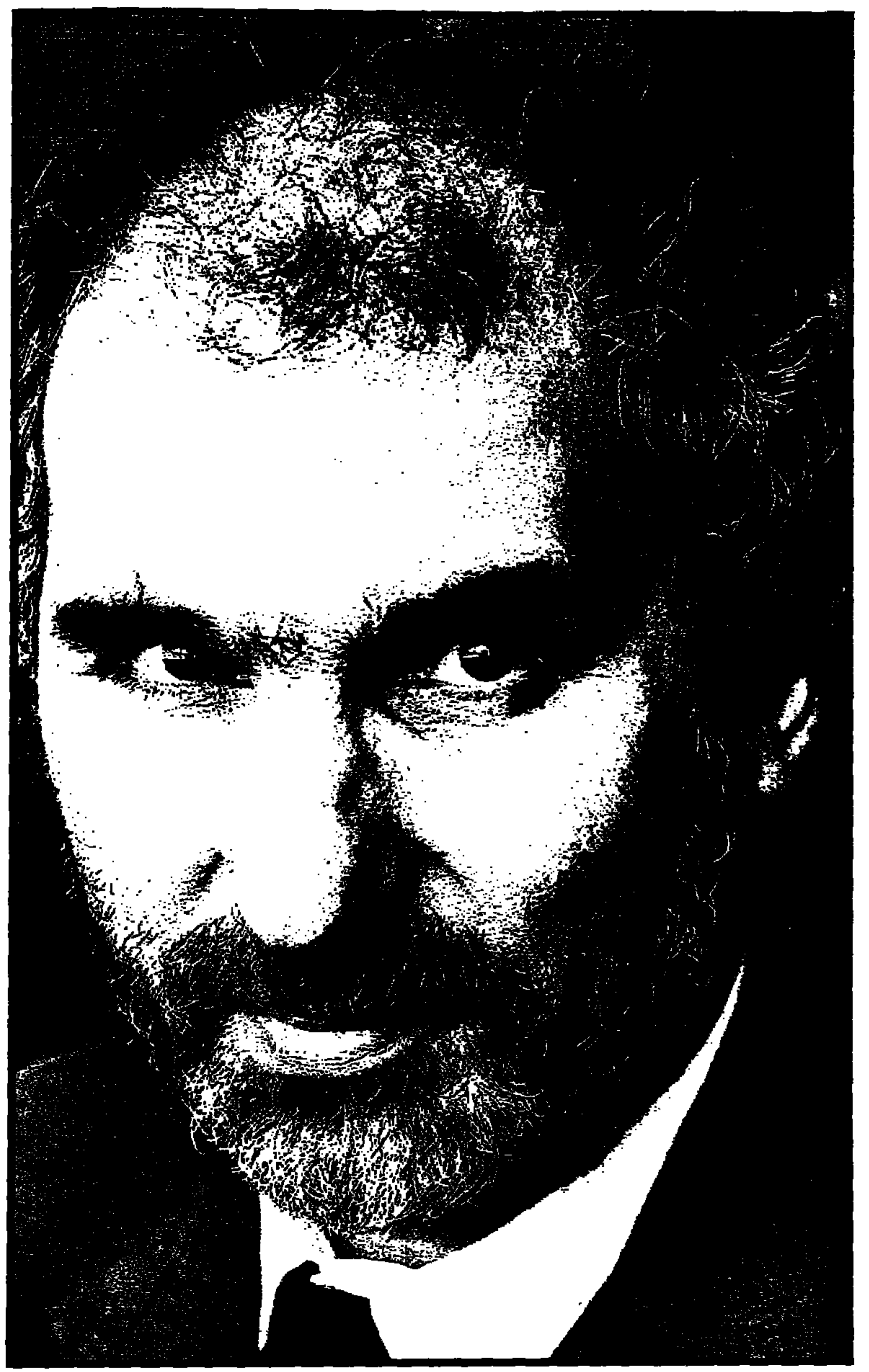
Many in the corporation have questioned, however, the wisdom of moving Mr Yentob, who has led the BBC's flagship television channel to new critical and competitive heights against ITV.

While Mr Birt's critics have described his radical restructuring — most notably his decision to bring radio and television under the same management roof — as an act of "corporate vandalism", many in the commercial sector have hailed the decision to separate broadcasting and production as a long-overdue and much-needed step towards increasing competitiveness. For a start, it is argued, it will consolidate and maximise the efficiency of the BBC's massive production resource.

However, many in the commercial sector believe that the temptation for BBC radio and television commissioners and schedulers to go outside the corporation's own vast production arm and purchase programmes from niche independent producers in their own specialist areas will be too great to resist. The endgame, they predict, could be a gradual withering away of the BBC's production base.

While this will undoubtedly be a good thing for the independent production sector and entrepreneurial BBC producers and craftspeople keen to fly from the corporation nest, some fear it could equally spell the end for the public service ethos that marks the BBC's production arm as one of the best in the world.

If Mr Yentob does as he is being bid and accepts the position of director of programmes, a new round of musical chairs at BBC Television will begin. Michael Jackson, 38, the bright young Controller of BBC2, is tipped to step into Mr Yentob's shoes as Controller of BBC1 *and* to take on the position of director of television. Contenders for Mr Jackson's job include Kim Evans, head of music and arts, Mark Thompson, head of factual programmes and Jeremy Gibson, head of features at BBC Bristol. Outsiders include Granada Television's director of programmes, Peter Salmon.



Alan Yentob led the BBC's flagship television channel to critical and competitive heights against ITV

Danger of a shotgun marriage

Peter Barnard dissects the Birtian revolution

WHEN a listener telephoned Radio 4's *Call Nick Ross* yesterday morning to say that the BBC's problem was that it wanted to take part in a Formula One race with a car that would also serve to collect the family shopping, I heard the distinctive sound of a nail being hit on the head.

The latest phase of the Birtian revolution is an attempt to be a major player and a niche broadcaster at one and the same time. How will the public service remit, nowhere better exemplified than in BBC radio, survive such a strategy?

First, beware of red herrings. The appointment of Matthew Bannister, Controller of Radio 1, as director of radio is a cause for hope rather than alarm. Bannister is an intelligent broadcaster and too young to have become bureaucratised. In revamping Radio 1, he has shown the mental toughness which his new job demands.

And the merging of radio and television into BBC Broadcast is no more than overdue. Already, news and current affairs share the same reporters and technical resources. Of course radio and television are distinctive media, but so are drama and sport.

The real question is: in making the BBC financially strong enough to compete worldwide, will radio be either squeezed out or forced to become much more commercial?

Effectively, the licence fee protects standards, especially in Radios 3 and 4 and in the World Service. But ratings matter. The BBC was mightily relieved when its radio audience share moved above 50 per cent early this year for the first time in 18 months. Holding more than half the audience helps to justify the licence fee.

THAT is why an unchanged BBC, increasingly serving a niche middlebrow market, will not wash. Pressure to abolish the licence fee would be irresistible if everyone was obliged to pay for something that only a minority actually used. Already there has been a huge financial squeeze on the World Service, which is no longer flavour of the month. More is coming. How much more depends on the success of Birt's gamble in taking a public sector culture into a commercial environment.

The worry for radio listeners is why, if the move is such a good thing, was there no consultation? Bannister was offered his new job last Thursday, the day before the changes were announced. A shotgun marriage between television and radio may have its merits, but have no doubt: television owns the gun. And it is still loaded.

An everyday story of how dog savages dog

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

Dog has been savaging dog with relish in Fleet Street over the past seven days after *The Independent* devoted almost half its front page to "an everyday story of how the *Daily Mail* digs its dirt — and how to throw it back".

It was written by Polly Toynbee, the *Independent* columnist, in a pre-emptive strike against "sleaze merchants" at the *Daily Mail* who had been trying to expose her — as a supporter of divorce who was enjoying a relationship with a married man — as a hypocrite.

The *Daily Mail*, a fierce opponent of the Government's divorce Bill, started investigating Toynbee's private life after she wrote in the magazine *Prospect* that the right to divorce was more important than freedom of speech and the right to vote.

According to Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Daily Mail* who defended his paper in *The Guardian* on Monday, Toynbee was a high-profile commentator with a moral and social agenda, who disdained traditional family values and urged that divorce should be made easier. Yet she had never mentioned her involvement with a married man.

So although it was a difficult assessment as to whether Toynbee's views were influenced by her own experience, the *Mail's* executives decided that it was worth at least exploring the possibility of a profile feature on Toynbee.

According to Toynbee, a *Mail* reporter then starting "digging for dirt", seeking a scarlet Jezebel. One neighbour was asked detailed questions about what hours he had observed any men coming and going at her house. "He suspected it was a burglar casing the joint. My 11-year-old son was terrified." So she decided to hit back and publish her side of the story first.

According to Dacre, the reporter did not harass anybody and at no stage used illicit methods. He did, however, establish that Toynbee had a relationship with a married man. His wife, according to her closest friends, had been devastated by her husband's affair and their 13-year-old son anguished by his father's departure.

Asked not to add to their anguish by identifying the family, and with a sense of growing unease, the investigation was called off — a decision communicated to *The Independent* before Toynbee's article was published.

The most exciting job on any newspaper is working on the front page where, by their selection and display of news, editors proclaim the values by which they stand. So Andrew Marr, the new Editor of *The Independent*, was making a defiant statement against the *Daily Mail* by his placing of Toynbee's polemic.

He explained it the next day as a protest against exposure for exposure's sake. "No one should be exposed simply because it is fun, or sells papers, or helps to make an ideological point. And for anyone who isn't a public figure, their private lives should stay firmly private."

Dacre responded to that in characteristically robust fashion. As he shaved every morning, he said, Marr should recite the following mantra: "My salary and my staff's mortgages and my loss-making newspaper are subsidised by the profits produced by the *Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror* and *The People* — newspapers which, when it comes to yellow journalism, make the *Daily Mail* seem like a church gazette. I enjoy the luxury of indulging in uncommercial journalism and should therefore try to be a little less self-righteous."

Attack is the best form of defence, but Dacre still failed to confront the central question raised by the *Mail's* investigation of Toynbee — which is why it was initiated. If Dacre disagrees with Toynbee, his answer ought to be on his leader page, not a gratuitous investigation that only increased the misery of a deserted wife and son, as well as of Toynbee's own 11-year-old boy.

As Marr argued, there is a danger that some tabloid journalism in the 1990s is becoming debased into the bullying of vulnerable people, by stronger people, for casual entertainment. Vindictive journalism had made him a supporter in principle of privacy legislation distinguishing sex from finance, with a public interest defence.

The real danger of this sort of journalism was identified earlier last week by Andrew Neil, the former editor of *The Sunday Times* — and in the *Daily Mail*. Neil was commenting on the downfall of Rod Richards, the Government minister who resigned after being exposed as an adulterer. So what, Neil thought, arguing that the journalism that brought him down took us another step closer to a privacy law that would shackle journalists trying to do real exposés of serious wrongdoing in high places. Dacre should read his own columnists.

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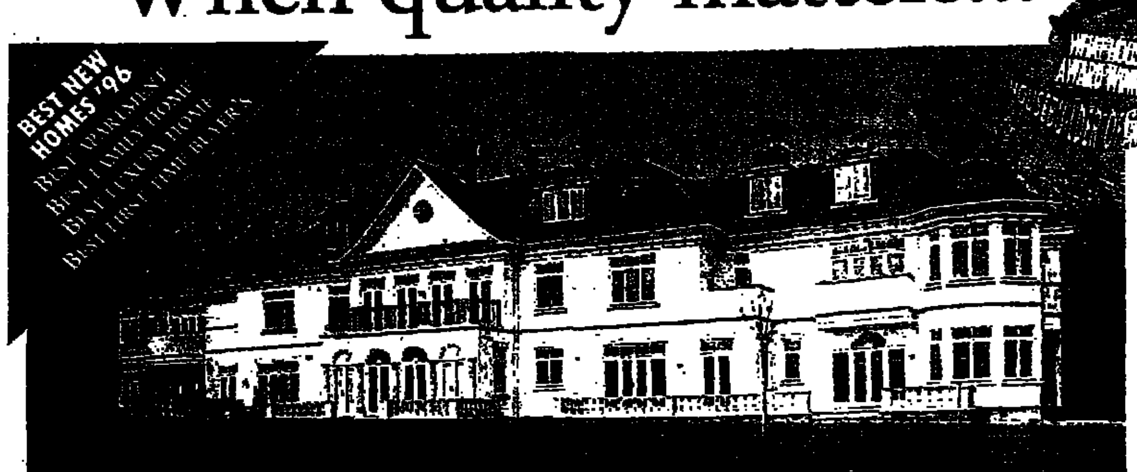

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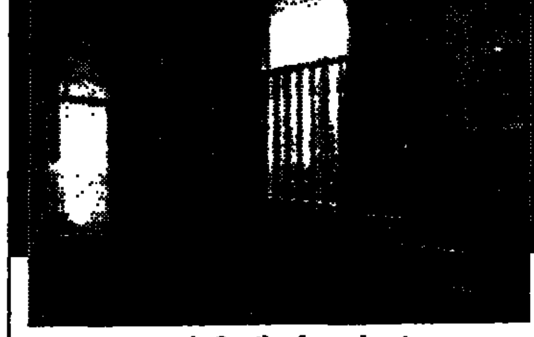

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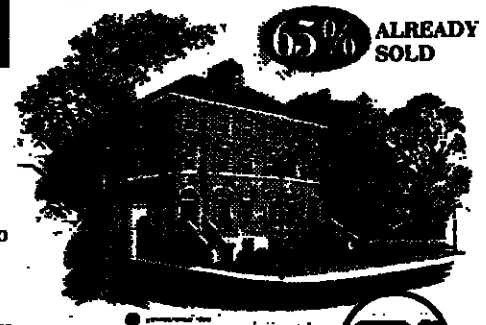

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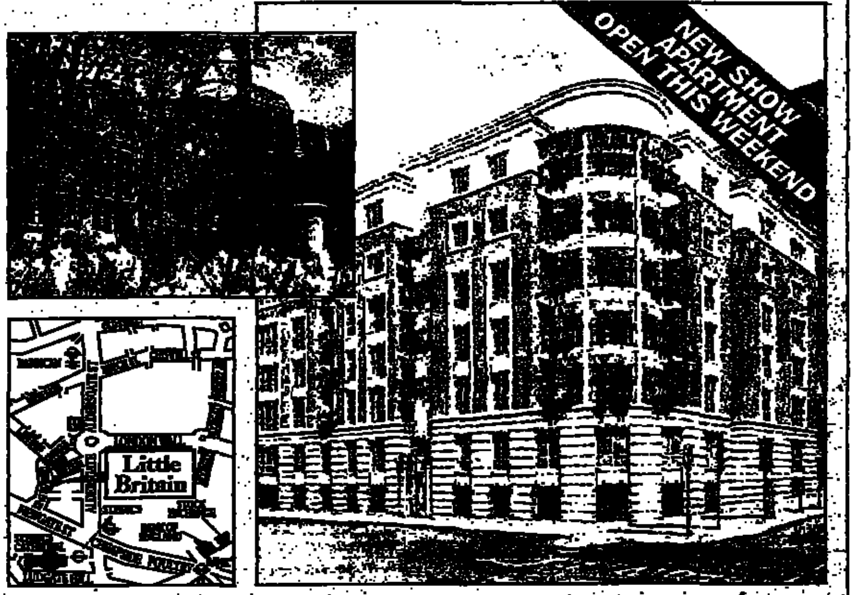

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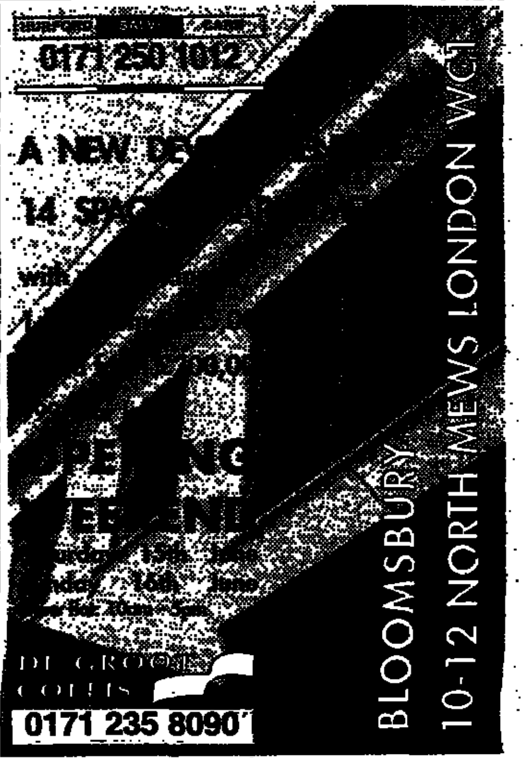

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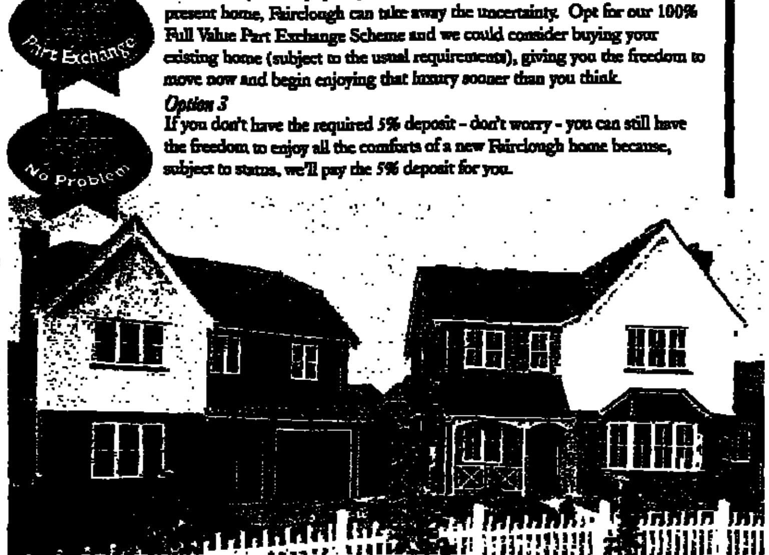

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Truth behind the housing market myths

Rachel Kelly, property correspondent, and an expert panel expose five fairy-tales about homebuying in the 1990s

Dinner parties will never be the same again. A team of experts has joined forces with two distinguished academics to quash some of the most persistent and *misleading* myths that dog the housing market.

The timing is apposite. It is less than a year to the general election and, as the political temperature rises, politicians on all sides have a stake in confusing the reality of the housing market to bolster their *own positions*.

Roll up John Stewart, economist at the House-Builders' Federation and Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, to *put the record* straight. A word of caution, though. Both agents and builders have an interest in trying to rebuild confidence in bricks and mortar and in destroying those myths which have turned potential homeowners against buying houses. So an academic balance has been provided by Christine Whitehead, Housing Professor at the London School of Economics; Michael Ball, Professor of Urban Studies at South Bank University; and Anatole Kaletsky, economics editor of *The Times*.

The first myth is that houses in Britain are still excessively expensive and swallow up an unacceptable share of people's earnings.

In fact, houses are now exceptionally cheap, by almost any measure. The ratio of house prices to people's incomes is also low by international standards. One of the indicators is the TSB's "affordability" index which tracks the percentage of a typical buyer's and a typical first-time buyer's take-home pay needed to cover a mortgage on an average price home. In the first three months of the year, the cost of buying a home fell by 5.6 per cent. Housing costs now account for 25.6 per cent of take-home pay.

The second myth is that Britain invests too much in houses — money that should be invested in manufacturing. This is completely false. Britain has the lowest share of gross domestic product invested in housing of any developed country, a point made last month by Professor Ball in his report, *Housing and Construction: a troubled relationship*, published for the Joseph Rowntree foundation. UK investment in housing is around 3 per cent of GDP, compared with 6.1 per cent in Germany and 5.1 per cent in France.

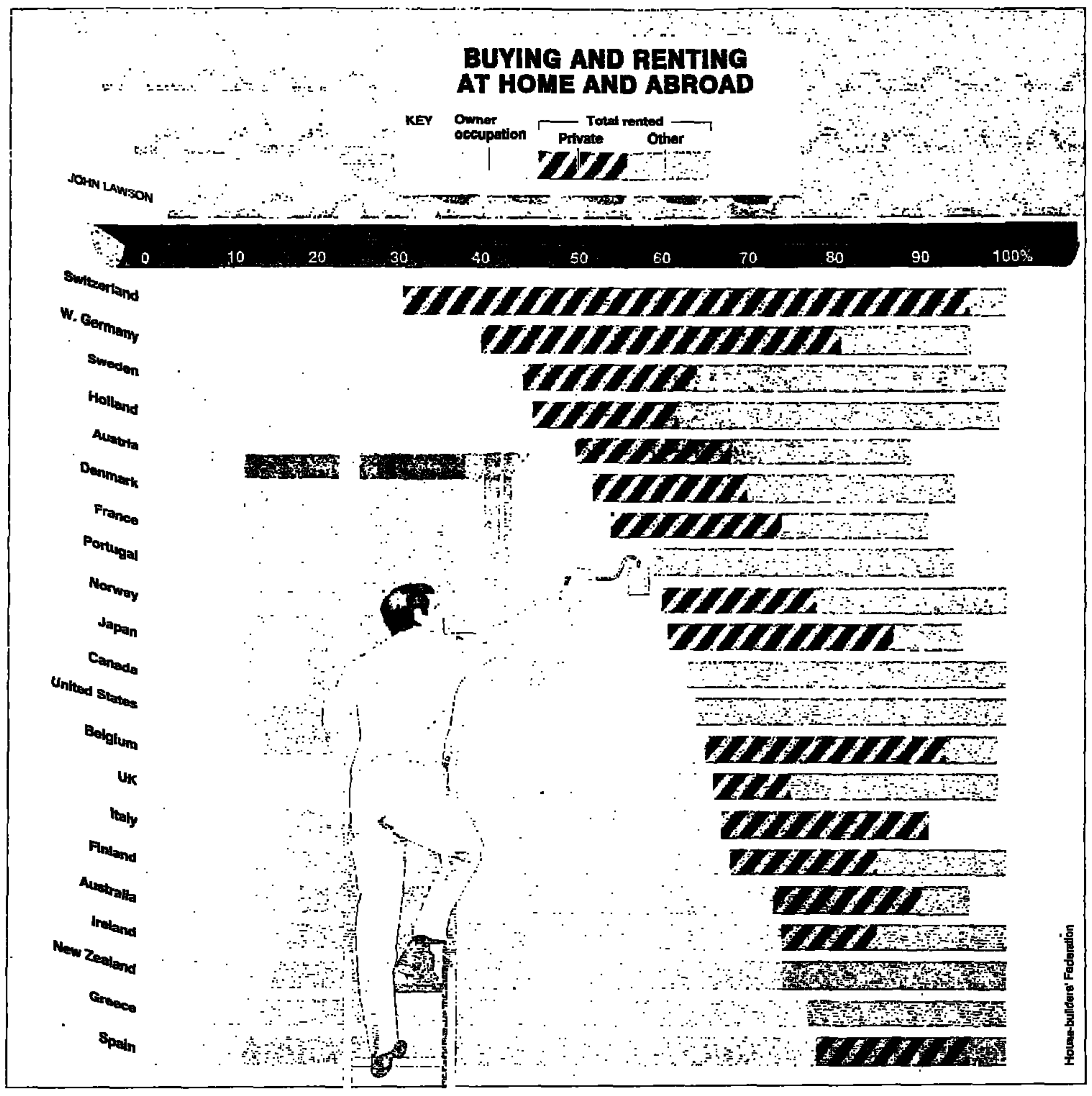
The result is one of the oldest and poorest housing stocks in Europe. We build very low numbers of new homes in relation to the population, and demolish fewer than 10,000 houses a year in England.

One reason for this low investment has been the absence of wartime destruction. Another is the *attachment in Britain to pre-1914* housing stock. These older houses will probably remain popular indefinitely, but large numbers of *inter-war houses are now ripe for* demolition. Far from discouraging more entrepreneurial forms *of investment, housing* equity has been one of the few sources of finance for small business creation.

> Many of our houses are ripe for demolition

The third myth is that Britain's exceptionally high levels of owner-occupation have created a rigid labour market in which people are unwilling to relocate for work. In fact, Britain's rate of home ownership — around 68 per cent — is not unusually high. It is in line with America, Canada, Italy and Japan. Around 85 per cent of the Spanish are homeowners. It is only slightly higher than in France. Only Germany has significantly lower home ownership and this is mainly because of the housing stock — more people live in flats rather than in single-family houses.

Britain has a more flexible labour market than any other European country. Nor is there a necessary correlation between high levels of home ownership and successful economies. Bangladesh has 98 per cent home ownership. Yet Switzerland and Germany have the highest standards of living and the lowest rates of owner-occupation. It is a mistake to imagine there is a "correct" level of home ownerhsip to which we *should* aspire.



What is unique about Britain's housing market is not the prevalence of home ownership, but the absence of private individual landlords. In America, for example, *almost all the rented sector is made* up of private landlords, whereas Britain is dominated by the public sector. Only about 6 per cent is privately rented. *And this damages* labour flexibility. The difficulty of *finding rented accommodation* prevents people moving from city to city, unlike in America.

"Housing cycles cause economic *booms and busts," is a fourth myth*. In fact, though this point is much debated, housing cycles are symptoms, rather than causes, of eco*nomic instability. This was true of* the last boom, when the increase in *mortgage* borrowing led to economic overheating. In so far as the boom and bust was connected with the housing market, rising dispos*able incomes and major income tax* cuts fuelled the demand for housing, along with the Government's "right to buy" scheme, which *accounted for around half of the* rise in home ownership.

Then financial deregulation allowed people access to funds. Personal-sector debt rose from less than 60 per cent of annual real *personal disposable income at the* start of the 1980s to almost 120 per cent by the early 1990s. The housing boom did not cause the *economic one.*

The fifth myth is: "Housing is a good investment only when inflation is high: Britons should accept that 'houses are for nesting not investing'."

The myth makes consumers believe that housing can never be a good investment if the Government is committed to low inflation. Since buying a house will always be a family's biggest investment decision, houses will simply not sell so long as people believe that housing is for nesting not investing.

But the idea that low inflation is bad for housing is untrue. The countries with the world's most expensive housing relative to incomes are Japan and Switzerland, which have the lowest inflation.

A more fundamental rebuttal is based on simple economics and finance. There is no clear link between general inflation and house price inflation. During the 1980s, retail price inflation was relatively low, but house prices began to rise strongly from the early 1980s onwards.

The *truth is that* house prices depend in the long term on two factors, neither of which is directly linked to inflation: personal incomes and interest rates. It is immaterial whether one looks at these two factors in money terms or in real terms. In the long run, house prices will always tend to rise in line with incomes — house-price-to-income ratios will remain roughly stable between one cycle and the next, provided real interest rates remain unchanged.

If real interest rates fall dramatically, as they did in the 1970s, this will raise the house-price-to-earnings ratio. But real interest rates are unlikely to remain far away from equilibrium for very long.

In the very long term, house prices tend to rise in line with earnings, because a house is a direct stake in the British economy. Housing services are a scarce resource, the demand for which rises in line with material prosperity, while supply is roughly fixed. *Owning a house is closely analogous* to owning a share in a commercial company called UK plc. History confirms that both *housing and equity prices have* risen at about the same rate as GDP and personal incomes.

For the general economy, the *long-term outlook* is good. The UK can look forward to many years of low inflation, low interest rates, reasonably high growth and falling *unemployment*, all of which underpin a healthy housing market.

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BALTIC QUAY Sweden Gate SE16. Selection of 1,2,3 & 4 bed flats overlooking South Dock. Close to transport, resident's porter & parking £140-£325pw Viewings 12noon - 7pm Seven days a week. 0171 736 5653 t

BARBICAN Wide selection of flats to let from £750 pcm min 6 months Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BATTERSEA Fully furn 2 bed flat overlooking park, secure parking. £220 pw. Tel: 0171 978 7073/ 01600 712572

BAYSWATER W2 Luxury furn 2 bd 2 bth garage F/F flat recep kit w/m/d gch porter gdn. £310pw 0181 953 8911 t.

BLOOMSBURY WC1 1 bd mans furn flat £200pw. 0171 379 0344 x2138/ 0181 740 5388

CHARTERHOUSE SQ, EC1 Studio flat in blk with pool, mini gym, jacuzzi £690 pcm min 6 months Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CHELSEA SW10 lovely flt 1 dbl bdrm lge rec/din rm, new dec, new kit/btharm own patio gdn £210pw 0181 874 5871

CHELSEA/Belg borders. Charming, sunny, quiet flat for single person. Short/long term. £180-£250 pw 0171 730 7301

CHELSEA 1 bed flat, furnished, mod decor, min 9 months, £275 pw. 0171 730 7666 /6444.

CITY, EC1 1 bed good cond. kit w/dryer. Marble bathroom. Rec room medium size unfurn £170 p/week. Hamilton Brooks 0171 638 2183.

CITY/EC1 Brand new 2 bed flat, close tube, porter, pkg, f/furn. £325pw 0171 379 4816

EATON PLACE SW1. luxury 3 beds, 3 baths, sauna, maisonette £750pw 0171 486 5507

FARNELL MEWS, SW5 Pretty 2 bed Mews house avail for immed let, furn or unfurn, close to Earls Court tube station. £400 pw. Halifax Property Services 0171 736 6406.

FULHAM/CHELSEA border. Amazing architect designed 3 bedroom period house, double height conservatory, sunny garden. £450 pw. 0171 244 8899.

FULHAM 4 bdrm, 2 bth, stylish mod hse, 40'gdn next to Queens Club quiet tree lined cul-de-sac. fur/unf £450pw 01713868336

FULHAM SW6 Grnd flr flat. Gdn nr tube. Rec, kit, 2 beds, bth, cellar. £260 pw 0171 371 0123

GLOUCESTER PLACE, W1 Luxury 3 double bed flat, newly decorated, patio garden. Near tube. £395 pw. 0171 7227744.

W1 New unfurn mais. 3 bed, 3 bth/shwr, through-lounge f/kit, g. WC. £495pw 0171 224 0959

W2 - Brand new int des 2 bed flt. Balcony views, gardens. £325 pw Parkers 0171 724 4458.

THE TIMES
RENTALS RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 12 1996

NEWS

Teachers to get own curriculum

■ A new "national curriculum" for teachers is to be announced tomorrow to make sure that young people entering the profession have the basic skills to teach children.

Teachers will also be given stronger powers to enforce discipline — even against parents' wishes — as part of the Government's attempt to raise standards in schools at a time when Britain's children are lagging behind ....Page 1

78 Tory rebels back Cash

■ The Conservative war over Europe flared dangerously when 78 Tory MPs defied John Major by backing a referendum and provoking an angry backlash from pro-Europeans. Senior Euro-enthusiasts called on Mr Major to show leadership by standing up to the Eurosceptics and bringing the policy of non-cooperation with Brussels to an end.......................... Pages 1, 11

Lottery row

The National Lottery Charities Board stood by its decision to distribute lottery money to gay and lesbian groups after the Prime Minister criticised the awards as "ill-founded and ill-judged" ....Page 1

Solo-sailor beaten

Samantha Brewster, who set out to become the first woman to sail solo around the world in a westerly direction, abandoned her attempt after battling against a fuel shortage.............................Page 1

Divorce bill change

The Lord Chancellor signalled that he was prepared to accept two crucial changes to the Government's divorce law reforms in a last ditch attempt to save the Bill ....Page 2

Suicide pact

A young British graduate who killed herself in a suicide pact with her boyfriend at an American range was pregnant, an inquest was told.....................Page 3

Church plan rejected

City of London planners threw out the glass-fronted design proposed for the medieval church of St Ethelburga ....Page 5

British roots

The American millionaire who is giving his £75 million collection of *gold and silver objects to the nation* said: "I felt it should come back to its roots".............. Page 6

Student demand

Students at Cambridge University are battling to change the centuries-old tradition of a seven-week summer term, the shortest in the world .... Page 9

Heart breakthrough

Elyse Bartlett, 4, from Fordingbridge, Hampshire, has become the first patient in England to undergo a hole-in-the-heart treatment that avoids surgery..............................Page 9

Euro 96 dispute

As the Russian team lost its first game in Euro 96, a war of words broke out between London and Moscow over allegations that Britain had refused to grant visas to scores of fans .... Page 12

Yeltsin trump card

President Yeltsin played a trump card against his main Communist rival when he raised the spectre of Soviet repression ... Page 13

Juppé anger

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, angered federalists when he appeared to compare the French-speaking separatists of Quebec to resistance fighters in the Second World War ... Page 14

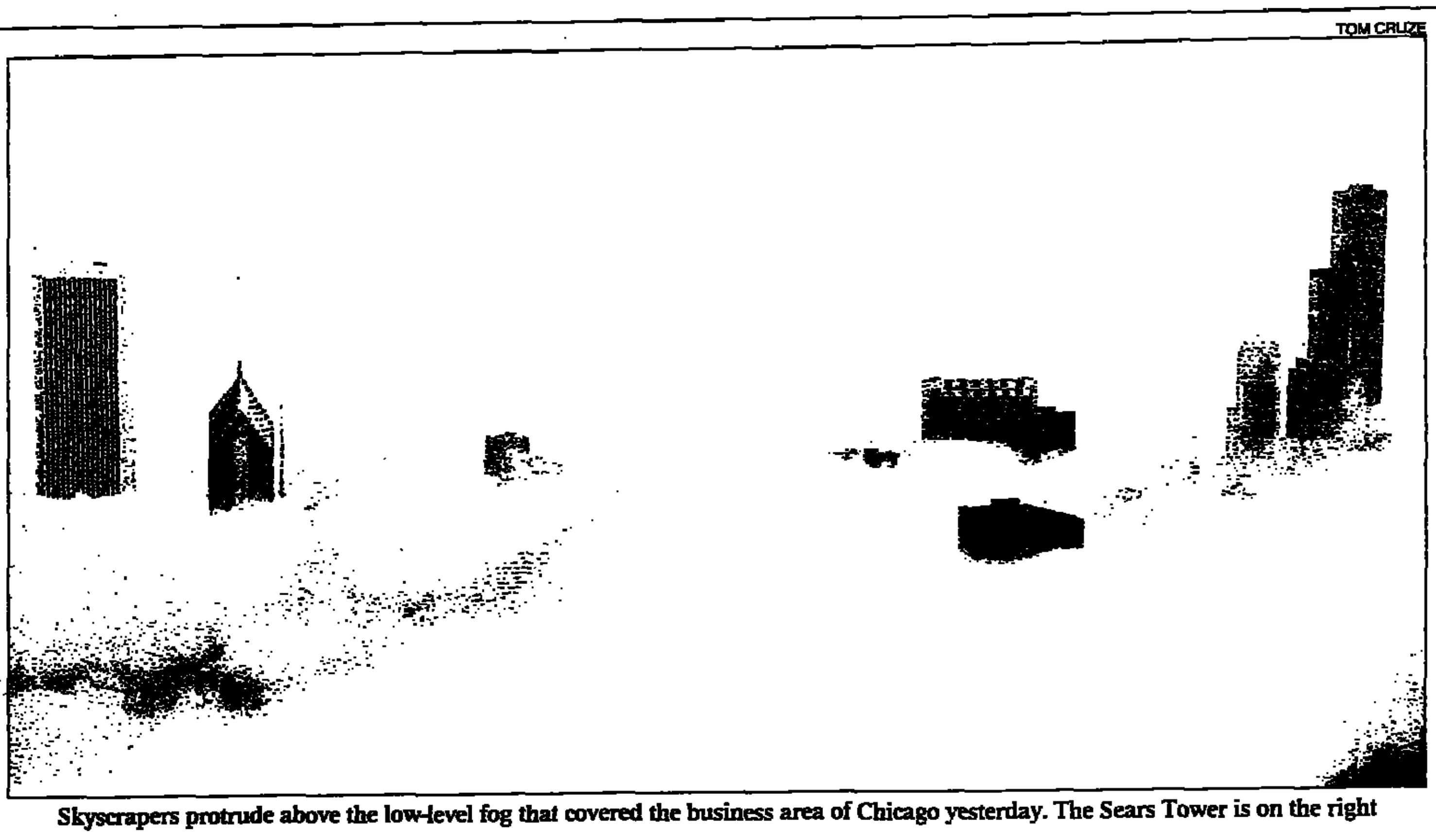
Emperor's end

A servant of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie told how the imprisoned monarch wept *and prayed on the night of* August 25, 1975, when he realised he was going to die............. Page 15

Venables accuses press 'traitors'

■ Terry Venables and his England football squad attempted to give the media a taste of their own medicine as a new scandal broke about three players drinking in a nightclub until the early hours of Sunday morning. Venables accused sections of the press of trying to turn the public against them and said he and his players considered them "traitors"......................Page 1

TOM CRUZE



Skyscrapers protrude above the low-level fog that covered the business area of Chicago yesterday. The Sears Tower is on the right

BUSINESS

Stock Exchange: The London market has appointed a new chief executive to replace Michael Lawrence, *who left in January*............Page 27

Electricity: The average household electricity bill is set to fall by between £15 and £20 a year following privatisation of British Energy, the nuclear generator ....Page 27

Demerger: Thorn EMI revealed details of its demerger but the City remains sceptical about whether the records business can stay independent.........................Page 27

Markets: *The FT-SE 100 Index rose* 25.9 to 3755.7. The trade-weighted sterling index rose from 85.8 to 86.0 after a rise from $1.5317 to $1.5352 and a rise from DM2.3522 to DM2.3584......................... Page 30

SPORT

Football: The England players returned to their European championship training camp after their *much-publicised break* to find they will be without Steve Howey, who is injured .... Pages 47-49, 52

Cricket: The Northamptonshire v Warwickshire Benson and Hedges semi-final was nicely poised after a rain-interrupted day .... Page 50

Tennis: Tim Henman, the British No 1, *fought* back *after* losing the first set to beat Javier Frana, of Argentina, in the Stella Artois at Queen's Club .... Page 46

Rugby league: Andrew Farrell, the Wigan loose forward, has become, at 21, the youngest England captain. He leads the team against France in the European championship tonight......................... Page 44

ARTS

Epic drama: The Shared Experience theatre company is preparing to stage Tolstoy's *War and Peace* at the National Theatre, all 1,400 pages of it ....Page 39

Solo efforts: Alan Bennett's wonderful monologues, *Talking Heads*, are brought to fresh life by Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyzack at Chichester ....Page 39

Opera double: At the Maggio Musicale in Florence, Graham Vick stages a superb *Lucia di Lammermoor*; while English National Opera revives its grey and soulless production of *La Bohème* in London............................. Page 40

Art show: The witty anarchy of artist Claes Oldenburg is celebrated in a huge tribute at the Hayward Gallery..............................Page 41

FEATURES

The weaker sex: Magazines are full of tales of unhappines but it is not women who are suffering, says Nigella Lawson................. Page 17

FASHION

Barelegged to the office: The really chic say its looks fine, women in senior jobs think it denotes diminished responsibility............ Page 16

MEDIA

When no means yes: Brenda Maddox sets out John Birt's assurances that the new blueprint for the BBC will not mean the end of the BBC as we know it but says that in fact it will........................... Page 22

Spelling it out: The implications of the Birtian revolution ....Page 23

HOMES

Fairy tales: The myths surrounding the buying of houses in the UK need to be exposed............ Page 25

THE PAPERS

Yesterday's meeting could be the start of a process which will divert Irish history into a new channel. Given the potential of the process it was sad that the start was such a shambles. But this will be forgotten if the participants really do get down to work - particularly if the IRA allows Sinn Fein to take its place at the table

— *Irish Independent*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Nick Leeson tells how he took Barings for £830 million. *Inside Story Special* (BBC1, 10.20pm)
Review: Lynne Truss on Gayle Tuesday: spoof too far ...... Page 51

OPINION

Echoes of Maastricht

Those MPs who voted for a referendum were thinking as much of the past as of the future. They are worried not just about further integration in *Europe* but about the extent of integration that has already been agreed ....Page 19

Arts of gold

When the gleaming treasures which it has been his life's pleasure to collect are placed in Somerset House, Arthur Gilbert will have *provided this great* Neo-Classical palace overlooking the Thames with its appropriate complement of gilded splendour ....Page 19

City resurrection

There is now a real chance that St Ethelburga will be rebuilt, and with it the reputation of the Church *of England as custodian of our* ecclesiastical architecture ..Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Sir James Goldsmith's erruption into British politics is colourful. His money dazzles journalists and frightens paranoid Tory managers. But he will prove electorally no more potent than the Maharishi's Natural Law Party............Page 18

ALAN COREN

Cosmopolitan is not some shoestring, whim-driven attic outfit where two men and a dog suck pencils until one of them comes up with an editorial idea. It is owned by the Hearst Corporation, which annually spends a Kane's ransom *on rocket salad and* Chablis so that serious thinkers in sharp suits may convene around shiny rosewood tables ....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

A continuation of the beef confrontation is not in the interests of Britain, the Tory party or Mr Major. It *only suits* sceptics who want to renegotiate .... Page 18

OBITUARIES

Alan Weeks, sports commentator; **The Ven Peter Mallett**, Chaplain-General to the forces .... Page 21

LETTERS

Lord Dahrendorf on reconciliation with Europe ....Page 19

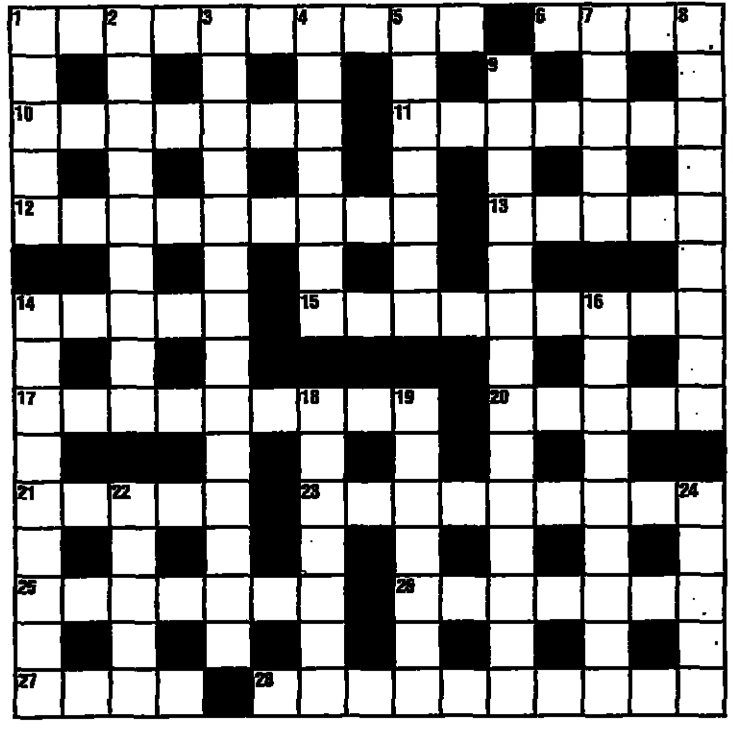
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown on Demi Moore in *The Juror*, and the rest of the week's new releases

■ BOOKS
Kate Bassett on medieval sexuality; Flora Fraser on Lola Montez; Martin Booth on opium

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,192



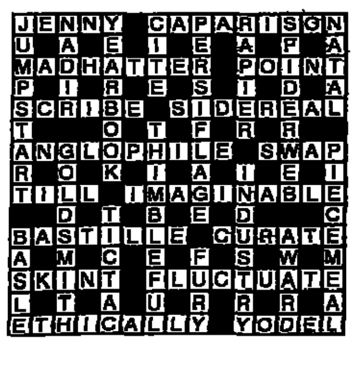
ACROSS

1 Ordered ace, perhaps, to be entered for this race (5,5).
6 Elegant yellow in which Ken's turned out (4).
10 Sort of miracle recovery (7).
11 Conversant with what was lost by the Amazon (7).
12 Born free (9).
13 Sacred sculpture showing two Greek characters (5).
14 Handle book for publisher (5).
15 Times covering university — that's significant (9).
17 Footballer, namely, having a couple of drinks (5-4).
20 Picks horses (5).
21 A large bird, some say, that keeps the grass down (5).
23 Religious leader always greeting army on return (9).
25 *Sergeant-majors seen in volume*, but not quite a crowd, they say (7).
26 Eastern potentate rejected everything in sphere of vision (7).
27 Indians one associates with dance (4).
28 Needs desperately to swallow water to get last of tablet down (10).

DOWN

1 In reduced circumstances, old man's embarrassed (5).
2 Cut parole arranged for robber (9).
3 One offers vision of what may *come to pass* (4-4,6).
4 Some rhymes are uninspiring (7).
5 In two ways, a major honour for celebrity (7).
7 Throw Satan finally out of Paradise (5).
8 Purge of sect members is to follow (9).
9 A tiny contribution made by American astronauts finally (4,2,3,5).
14 Check striker is okay for big game (4,5).
16 A cello — it's playing swing (9).
18 *A politician in US enters one* place of learning (7).
19 Sort of conspiracy case appearing for trial (5-2).
22 Sound delighted as Health *Authority's laid* on operation (5).
24 One was bound to land something from the lottery (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,191



Times Two Crossword, page 52

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 69 per cent of the solo competitors in the London Regional Final of *The Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 61 per cent of the pairs.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute *(cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other* times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Wattisham, Suffolk, 24C (75F); lowest day max: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 0.71in; highest sunshine: Margate, Kent, 11.7hr.

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See Teletext p.354. AirUK

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a dry and quite sunny day. However, it will feel quite fresh this evening as temperatures drop under clear skies.

Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be rather cloudy at first with showers, but should become progressively drier and brighter through the day. The rest of Scotland should have a dry day with bright or sunny spells.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, E England, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Central N, NE England:** dry with long sunny spells. Wind light to moderate, mostly between west and northwest. Max 21C (70F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** rather cloudy, especially at first but mainly dry. Wind west to northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 19C (63F).

☐ ***Aberdeen, Central Highlands,* Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland:** rather cloudy, especially at first with some showers. Becoming drier and brighter later. Wind west to northwesterly moderate to fresh. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland**: rather cloudy with showers, becoming drier and brighter by evening. Wind west to northwesterly fresh to strong. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mostly rather cloudy with showers, some heavy. Wind westerly fresh to strong. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Outlook:** on Thursday and Friday all areas will be dry with sunny spells. It will be pleasantly warm, too.

☐ **Pollen forecast:** Scotland, Northern Ireland, low; Northern England, Wales, London, moderate; South East, South West, moderate to high; Midlands, East Anglia, high.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

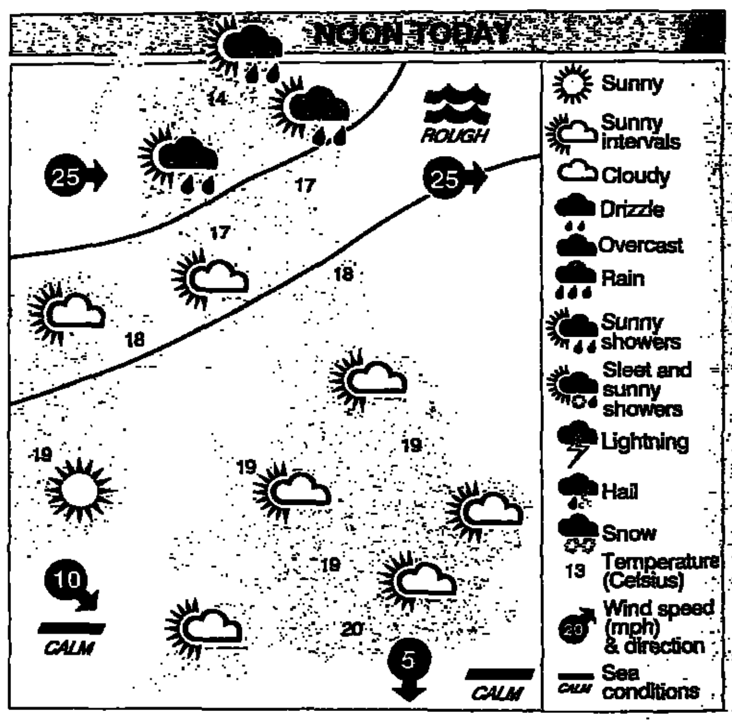
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.9	0.04	16	61	r	London	5.9	-	22	72	b
Anglesey	0.7	0.17	14	57	r	Lowestoft	9.2	-	21	70	s
Aspatria	2.7	0.16	15	59	r	Manchester	1.9	0.32	17	63	r
Aviemore	3.5	0.09	17	63	r	Margate	11.7	-	24	75	s
Belfast	3.8	0.10	18	64	sh	Minehead	2.5	0.09	18	64	d
Birmingham	0.4	0.23	16	61	r	Morecambe	0.7	0.28	17	63	r
Bognor R	6.6	-	19	66	s	Newcastle	2.2	0.03	18	64	r
Bournem'th	0.9	0.01	17	63	c	Newquay	-	0.03	16	61	d
Bristol	-	0.10	16	61	r	Norwich	5.2	0.01	2373		
Buxton	1.5	0.38	15	59	r	Penzance	X	0.04	16	61	d
Cardiff	0.5	0.09	16	61	r	Poole	0.7	-	18	64	c
Colwyn Bay	*1.2*	*0.12*	*18*	*64*	*r*	*Prestatyn*	X	*0.07*	*19*	*66*	*b*
Cromer	7.2	0.01	23	73	s	Ross-o-wye	0.3	0.18	16	61	r
Dunbar	3.6	0.01	18	64	sh	Ryde	5.8	-	20	68	s
Eastbourne	6.0	-	21	70	s	Salcombe	0.4	0.05	15	59	d
Edinburgh	3.8	0.13	18	64	sh	Sandown	4.9	-	20	68	b
Exmouth	3.5	0.05	15	59	d	Sauntn Snd	1.5	0.26	15	59	r
Falmouth	-	0.01	18	64	d	Scarboro'	X				
Fishguard	*1.1*	*0.20*	*18*	*61*	*r*	*Shanklin*	*9.0*	*0.01*	*19*	*66*	*s*
Folkestone	5.7	-	19	66	s	Shrewsbury	1.1	0.28	16	61	r
Glasgow	1.9	0.19	17	63	r	Skegness	4.1	0.02	19	66	sh
Guernsey	8.3	-	23	73	s	Southend	X				
Hastings	8.0	-	19	66	s	Southport	X				
Hayling I.	5.8	-	19	66	s	Southsea	4.5	-	19	66	c
Herne Bay	11.1	-	24	75	s	Stornoway	3.4	0.16	10	50	r
Hove	8.4	-	19	66	s	Swanage	0.7	0.01	16	61	d
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	2.5	0.02	17	63	d
Isle of Man	0.3	0.14	14	57	r	Tenby	X				
Jersey	11.1	0.01	23	73	s	Tiree	4.8	0.17	13	55	d
Kinloss	3.7	0.06	18	64	r	Torquay	0.9	0.03	17	63	d
Leeds	2.3	0.27	17	63	r	Tynemouth	X				
Lerwick	7.6	0.02	13	55	r	Ventnor	4.6	0.01	17	63	b
Leuchars	3.7	0.22	18	64	r	West-s-mare	2.0	0.06	17	63	r
Littlehmptn	*6.5*	-	*19*	*66*	*s*	*Weymouth*	-	-	*15*	*59*	*c*

ABROAD

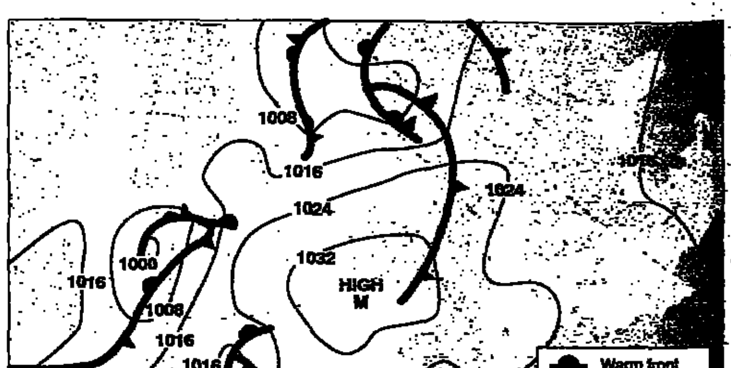
Ajaccio	26	79	s	Corfu	34	93	s	Madrid	29	84	s	Riyadh	41	106	s
Akrotiri	31	88	s	C'phagn	19	66	c	Majorca	27	81	s	Rome	27	81	s
Alex'dria	28	82	s	Dublin	17	63	f	Malaga	23	73	s	S Fr'isco	17	63	s
Algiers	24	75	s	Dubrovnik	30	86	s	Malta	29	84	s	S Paulo	X		
Amst'dm	26	79	f	Faro	23	73	s	Melb'rne	12	54	f	Salzburg	28	82	s
Athens	35	95	s	Florence	31	88	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	18	64	s
B Aires	22	72	s	Frankfurt	27	81	f	Miami	31	88	f	Seoul	20	68	c
Bahrain	34	93	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	32	90	s	Sing'por	29	84	r
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	25	77	s	Montreal	25	77	s	St'kholm	21	70	f
Barbados	*20*	*68*	*c*	*Gibraltar*	*23*	*73*	*s*	*Moscow*	*23*	*73*	*c*	*Strasb'rg*	*28*	*82*	*s*
Barcelona	26	79	s	Helsinki	22	72	s	Munich	27	81	f	Sydney	15	59	r
Beirut	25	77	s	Hong K	31	88	f	N Delhi	28	82	f	Tangier	27	81	s
Belgrade	33	91	s	Innsbrck	29	84	f	N York	22	72	f	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Berlin	25	77	f	Istanbul	27	81	s	Nairobi	17	63	f	Tenerife	25	77	s
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	37	99	s	Naples	28	82	s	Tokyo	23	73	f
Biarritz	21	70	c	Jo'burg	14	57	t	Nice	25	77	s	Toronto	25	77	s
Borde'x	25	77	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	21	70	s	Tunis	29	84	s
Brussels	27	81	s	L Angels	22	72	s	Paris	30	86	f	Valencia	28	82	s
Budapest	32	90	f	L Palmas	23	73	s	Peking	31	88	f	Vanc'ver	14	57	c
Cairo	34	93	s	Le Touquet	21	70	f	Perth	21	70	s	Venice	31	88	s
Cape Tn	18	64	s	Lisbon	25	77	s	Prague	27	81	b	Vienna	29	84	s
Ch'church	X			Locarno	29	84	s	Reykjavik	10	50	r	Warsaw	29	84	s
Chicago	20	68	f	Luxembg	26	79	f	Rhodes	27	81	s	Wash'ton	29	84	s
Cologne	25	77	s	Luxor	40	104	s	Rio de J	24	75	f	Zurich	26	79	s

Temperatures at midday local on Monday X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high M will move slowly northeast and become established over England, dominating the weather in the British Isles.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10.52	6.9	11.12	6.8	Leith	11.42	5.0	-	-
Aberdeen	10.34	3.7	11.14	3.8	Liverpool	8.17	8.3	8.48	8.5
Avonmouth	3.57	11.4	4.25	11.4	Lowestoft	6.42	2.3	6.47	2.3
Belfast	8.16	3.3	8.45	3.3	Margate	9.16	4.4	9.36	4.4
Cardiff	3.44	10.8	4.12	10.8	Milford Haven	3.07	5.9	3.38	5.9
Devonport	2.32	4.7	3.05	4.8	Newquay	2.03	6.0	2.31	5.9
Dover	8.26	5.8	8.43	6.0	Oban	3.04	3.3	3.22	3.2
Dublin (N Wall)	8.51	3.8	9.29	3.7	Penzance	1.38	4.8	2.10	4.8
Falmouth	1.59	4.7	2.32	4.5	*Portland*	*3.23*	1.6	4.02	1.7
Greenock	9.46	3.1	10.11	3.0	Portsmouth	8.28	4.1	8.55	4.4
Harwich	8.45	3.7	9.05	3.6	Shoreham	8.29	5.3	8.54	5.8
Holyhead	7.27	5.0	8.07	4.9	Southampton	7.54	4.0	8.23	4.3
Hull (Albert D)	3.14	6.6	3.24	6.8	Swansea	3.11	8.1	3.41	8.1
Ilfracombe	2.53	7.9	3.25	8.0	Tees	0.29	4.7	12.48	4.8
King's Lynn	3.16	5.8	3.37	6.1	Walton-on-Naze	8.44	3.9	9.01	3.8

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 4.43 am
Sun sets: 9.18 pm
Moon sets 5.32 pm
Moon rises 2.54 am

London 9.18 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.27 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 9.59 pm to 4.27 am
Manchester 9.38 pm to 4.40 am
Penzance 9.32 pm to 5.12 am

New Moon June 16

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